

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, July 13, 2015
1:18 P.M.

1

2 A P P E A R A N C E S:3 NORMA GONSALVES,
4 Presiding Officer5 RICHARD NICOLELLO,
6 Deputy Presiding Officer7 HOWARD KOPEL,
8 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

9 STEVEN RHOADS

10 DENISE FORD

11 LAURA CURRAN

12 FRANCIS X. BECKER (Not Present)

13 VINCENT MUSCARELLA (Not Present)

14 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

15 LAURA SCHAEFER

16 DONALD MACKENZIE

17 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
18 Minority Leader

19 ROSE MARIE WALKER

20 DENNIS DUNNE

21 JUDITH JACOBS

22 JAMES KENNEDY

23 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

24 CARRIE SOLAGES

25 SIELA BYNOE

26 WILLIAM J. MULLER, III
27 Clerk of the Legislature

LIST OF SPEAKERS

BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE JONES	10
JAMES CARVER	23
COMMISSIONER THOMAS KRUMPTER	27
DONNA TEICHNER	34
JUDY GUISE	38
VERA PADGETT	42
DR. JEFFREY REYNOLDS	47
KEISHA WILSON	67
NAWAAL WALKER	71
VIRGINIA SINGLETARY	74
HENRY BOITEL	78
JOHN BUDNICK	81
JOHN BUTLER	82
DAVID RAGANETTI	91
BARBARA EPSTEIN	96
META MEREDAY	97
LISA LOCURTO	102
JOSH MEYER	104
BRIAN SCHNEIDER	120
JOHN SARCONI	142
CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE	
ROBERT WALKER	172

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SPEAKERS (cont'd)

SANDRA D'ARCANGELO 188
GERALD OTTAVINO 191
JOANNE BORDEN 194
DEBBIE WILSON 200

1

2

INSERTS

3

Incorporated by reference:

4

Committee Minutes of

5

June 29, 2015 pertaining to

6

Calendar Items 1-8, 10, 12, 14, 16-32.....77

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Ladies and
3 gentlemen, there's going to be a change in
4 the procedures today because we have some
5 esteemed guests here that really warrant our
6 immediate attention. So, don't get upset,
7 there will be public participation as
8 quickly as we can possibly do it, but there
9 is some order of business that needs to be
10 taken care of ASAP.

11 I'm going to ask at this point in
12 time for Sergeant Alvarez to lead us in the
13 Pledge of Allegiance.

14 (Whereupon, the Pledge of
15 Allegiance was recited.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
17 so much. At this point in time, Sergeant
18 bear with me, I just said to you that we are
19 going to take things out of order because
20 the nature of the issue warrants it. So I
21 need to ask for an emergency for an item
22 that is going to be presented to us by
23 Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams. Before we
24 do that we need to establish the emergency.

25 Motion to establish the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 emergency, please.

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
6 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Minority
7 Leader Kevan Abrahams. All those in favor
8 of establishing the emergency signify by
9 saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Any opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 The emergency is established.

14 I'm going to now leave that up to Kevan
15 Abrahams to give us the item that we are
16 acting upon at this particular time, and I
17 believe, I think you'll understand why we're
18 doing it out of order.

19 So, Minority Leader Kevan
20 Abrahams.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
22 Madam Presiding Officer. I just want to
23 say, before I bring up Brigadier General
24 George A. Jones to the podium, I just want
25 to take the opportunity to thank the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 multiple parties that were a part of the
3 process to get us to this point today and,
4 obviously, the indulgence of the majority,
5 lead by Madam Presiding Officer Gonsalves, I
6 want to thank her.

7 I want to thank my counsel, Pete
8 Kleins, Robin Wheat in my office as well,
9 administration, the County Executive
10 administration as well, to get it to this
11 point, and the things we had to do to honor
12 a great man that's been not only great for
13 Roosevelt as well as for our county, but for
14 our country, has been tremendous, and I want
15 to thank each and every one of those
16 entities.

17 That being said, I would invite
18 Brigadier General George A. Jones to the
19 podium. As Mr. Jones comes to the podium,
20 he comes to us as a general. He has served
21 this country. He has reached the status
22 that very few have reached in this country.
23 We are erecting a statue of him at the
24 American Legion, and that's the part that we
25 are taking action on today to recognize his

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 great work on behalf of this country and
3 also obviously on behalf of this county.

4 He is joined today by Reverend
5 Warren from the American Legion as well as
6 Mr. Boyd from the Chamber of Commerce, two
7 gentlemen I know from being in the Memorial
8 Day parade every year.

9 But also, just to speak to
10 Mr. Jones' character, and why this is so
11 important. We had a group of young people,
12 I believe they might still be here, from the
13 Roosevelt Baldwin Freeport area. As I said
14 before, Mr. Jones' caliber, his character,
15 we want our young people to embody what he
16 went through.

17 I was going to read through his
18 bio that's on the internet from Wikipedia to
19 the White Pages, all these different things,
20 but I think the most important thing is to
21 hear from him.

22 As I said before, he has reached
23 a status in our military that very few have
24 reached. He has accomplished much in
25 serving this country.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 I'm truly blessed to have known
3 him and I'm happy that we were able to do
4 this erection of this statue which will
5 recognize him for his work and his
6 commitment to this country, but then also to
7 be a symbol to our young people that you
8 have someone that grew up in Roosevelt and
9 basically has made his life and his family's
10 life, his kids, and his grandchildren's life
11 better because of that.

12 I think there's no better example
13 than a living one, and I'm speaking way too
14 much, so I want to kindly give the floor to
15 Brigadier General George A Jones.
16 Mr. Jones.

17 BRIGADIER GENERAL JONES: Thank
18 you very much. Being an old soldier, one of
19 the things that I have been imbued with when
20 you speak is to stand up to be seen, speak
21 up to be heard. And, as brief as you
22 possibly can, sharing with the folks in
23 three minutes, 92 years of your life
24 experience.

25 That having been said, let me

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 encapsulate it by saying this: I served in
3 the United States Military, through the New
4 York State Army National Guard for some 31
5 years. I was a fire fighter in the City of
6 New York for 20 years. I had the good
7 fortune of serving Nassau County for over
8 four administrations over a period of some
9 31 years.

10 I came on board in Nassau County
11 in 1968 under the administration of Eugene
12 Nickerson and served in the labor department
13 and had the good experience of being the
14 director on-the-job training for the
15 physically handicapped here in Nassau
16 County.

17 Subsequent to that, under the
18 administration of Ralph Caso, I was
19 fortunate enough to have been dubbed the
20 coordinator for Minority Business
21 Enterprises.

22 Following that, under the
23 administration of Fran Purcell, I was the
24 director of equal opportunity employment for
25 Nassau County, and concurred with that

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 because Nassau County was a grantee from the
3 United States Environmental Protection
4 Agency to put in a lateral sewer system here
5 in Nassau County. I was a minority business
6 enterprise officer for Nassau County until
7 2000.

8 I say all that pointedly to try
9 to encapsulate my experience, number one, as
10 a resident of Nassau County for some 60
11 years, and having worked for this august
12 administration for some 30 years. Those 30
13 years allowed me to interface with many of
14 you and, more specifically, an old friend of
15 mine, your legislator, Dennis Dunne.

16 I say that pointedly because I
17 recognize that, as you go through this veil
18 of tiers, it's important to remember the
19 people that you meet on the way up, because
20 in my case you might meet them on the way
21 down.

22 That having been said, I want to
23 express my full appreciation, number one,
24 not only to you, the legislators, for giving
25 your gracious support to the acorn that was

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 planted by Sheldon Parish and watered by the
3 veterans in Roosevelt, to the extent that
4 you see fit, to honor any effort to put a
5 statue or monument in Roosevelt in my name.
6 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I want to
8 take the brief opportunity to thank some of
9 the gentlemen that brought this up. This
10 wasn't my idea or my creation. It started
11 out with the president of the Chamber of
12 Commerce, Mr. Boyd, and obviously Reverend
13 Warren, for taking it and running with it.

14 We were just the vehicle, as I
15 expressed to Mr. Jones earlier, we were the
16 vehicle to get this done. I think from that
17 standpoint thanking Sheldon Parish as part
18 of that mix as well, who is a Roosevelt
19 resident, through and through. I just want
20 to thank those gentleman. They were too
21 humble to speak. But they were with
22 Mr. Jones at the podium, and I just want to
23 thank them for having the vision and the
24 foresight. And also thank again my office,
25 between Peter Klein and Robin Wheat, as well

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 as the administration and you, Madam
3 Presiding Officer, for allowing this to be
4 pushed forward of the calendar today.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
6 Leader Abrahams, I said in your opening
7 remarks regarding the Brigadier General
8 Jones, you said that he was a role model for
9 the young people in this room. But let me
10 tell you something, he's a role model for
11 all of us, because I don't know if any of us
12 can attest to the fact that we have
13 accomplished so many things in so few years,
14 and, let me tell you something, never say
15 never, and I think that's the message you
16 are saying, Brigadier General.

17 God bless you and I'm happy to be
18 able to do this in your honor today.

19 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Madam Chair?

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
21 Dunne.

22 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Thank you,
23 Madam Chair. I have known General Jones for
24 over 40 years, 1973 when I started with the
25 veterans agency when I met him.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 General and gentle man. The man
3 is a class act. Incredible intelligence.
4 And when you think of think of General Jones
5 you think of class. You've displayed it
6 here today, again, this afternoon. I'm so
7 glad they're going to erect a statute, if
8 anybody, in Nassau County, to you. God
9 bless you and you deserve it.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I want to
11 point out I think that the Brigadier General
12 did stay within the three minutes.

13 Before we take a vote on this
14 item, I'm going to ask the clerk to call the
15 roll and then I will read the item.

16 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding
17 Officer Nicoletto?

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

19 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy
20 Presiding Officer Kopel?

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bynoe?

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

24 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
25 Solages?

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.
3 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?
4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.
5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Curran?
6 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.
7 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Becker?
8 (No verbal response.)
9 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
10 Muscarella?
11 (No verbal response.)
12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
13 Birnbaum?
14 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.
15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
16 DeRiggi-Whitton?
17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
18 Here.
19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
20 Kennedy?
21 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
22 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
23 Schaefer?
24 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
25 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.
3 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?
4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.
5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?
6 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.
7 CLERK MULLER: Legislator
8 MacKenzie?
9 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.
10 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Rhoads?
11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.
12 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader
13 Abrahams?
14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.
15 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer
16 Gonsalves?
17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.
18 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.
19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
20 Mr. Muller. Now for the item, a resolution
21 authorizing the County Executive to execute
22 an agreement between the County of Nassau
23 and the American Legion Joe Murphy Post
24 1957.
25 Motion, please.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
5 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Minority
6 Leader Abrahams. Is there any comments or
7 other remarks that people would like to
8 make?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Is there anyone from the public
11 who would like to speak on this item?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 No one? There being none, all
14 those in favor of the resolution signify by
15 saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 The item passes unanimously.

20 Now we are going to move to the
21 points of personal privilege. Then, of
22 course, to public participation, and then to
23 today's agenda and calendar.

24 You know what? I really and
25 truly, we are going to come down to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Brigadier General Jones and this is
3 something that we would like to remember for
4 a long, long time. So, Minority Leader,
5 let's go.

6 Now, ladies and gentlemen, we are
7 going to proceed with the points of personal
8 privilege, and one of the points of personal
9 privilege was brought to us through
10 Legislator Dunne.

11 However, the individual who we
12 were going to recognize today was called to
13 duty, I believe, but we have someone from
14 the marines, Gunnery Sergeant Alvarez, who
15 is going to mention the individual's name
16 for us and, of course, Legislator Dunne will
17 go on. So, you are representing I believe
18 the Lieutenant Colonel.

19 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Patrick
20 Crawford.

21 GUNNERY SERGEANT ALVAREZ: He was
22 the commanding officer to the second
23 battalion, 25th Marines. His name is
24 Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Crawford.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do you

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 have anything to add, Legislator Dunne?

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: He's been
4 assigned to California. Yes, he's going to
5 California. His tour here, he has been
6 terrific to us, the legislature in Nassau
7 County when we needed a couple of rides for
8 parades, Madam Chair, over in East Meadow he
9 provided them for us. He was good with us
10 for the Toys for Tots. He gave us Alvarez
11 for the Toys for Tots, and what a great job
12 Alvarez did. I'm going to give that to
13 Alvarez in a minute.

14 But, if there was a funeral, and
15 it was a former Marine, and we had some
16 Marines home from Afghanistan or Iraq, he
17 was able to provide some Marines for us for
18 the funeral details.

19 Lieutenant Colonel Patrick
20 Crawford is going to be missed, and the
21 Nassau County Legislature had every
22 legislator sign a citation for him to bring
23 with him and hang on his wall in California,
24 and wherever else he is assigned. We're
25 going to bring that to him over at the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 barracks because he's leaving at 3 o'clock.
3 He has a flight to California. We are going
4 to lose a good friend but I understand his
5 replacement is a great guy. I look forward
6 to meeting the new colonel in charge.

7 I want the new colonel to know
8 about Alvarez. Gunnery Sergeant Alvarez has
9 been the Toys for Tots coordinator with the
10 United States Marine Corp. He has helped us
11 collect over 500,000 toys, and distributing
12 those toys to over 250,000 children. And he
13 participated in over 267 events and he
14 coordinated with the press and the Honorable
15 Eddie Mangano who is also a vice chairman of
16 the annual Toys for Tots and we all know
17 Major Kilbride has made him jump through
18 hoops, right, a big smile on his face.

19 But he also serves as a motor
20 transport chief for the instruction and
21 inspection staff of the 25th Marines Corp
22 located right here on Stewart Avenue in
23 Garden City.

24 On behalf of the Nassau County
25 Legislature, we have a citation for you too,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 gunny, for the great job you have done for
3 our kids, and the Toys for Tots program, and
4 what you do for our country.

5 When I just turned 18, I raised
6 my right hand, a United States Marine Corp
7 recruiter, serving the forces with God my
8 country and its way of life. I'm prepared
9 to give my life in its defense, so help me
10 God. And the Marines have done that and I
11 thank you for your service. I hope this
12 piece of paper means a little more to you
13 than just a piece of paper because it comes
14 from our heart.

15 We all here treasure what you've
16 done for us here in this room for the County
17 of Nassau and for our country. So God bless
18 you, God bless all Marine Corp, and God
19 bless the USA.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now, for
21 another point of personal privilege. I'm
22 going to ask president of the PBA, James
23 Carver, to present the two individuals,
24 Police Officer Robert Gibbons, of BSO, and
25 Police Officer Edward Carlson of BSO, and of

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 course I believe with the president of the
3 PBA is the Acting Commissioner Tom Krumpter.
4 I thought I saw Chief Skrynecki here too.

5 PRESIDENT CARVER: Chief Patrol
6 Kirby is here. Chief Support Canavan, Chief
7 of Detectives Kevin Smith is back there.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Where are
9 two top cops?

10 PRESIDENT CARVER: Right behind
11 me. Before I talk about them, I don't know
12 if he's still here, I would like to
13 congratulate the brigadier general. Being
14 from law enforcement or being just a county
15 resident, when you hear of an individual,
16 his resume like that, it's quite impressive,
17 and it's heartwarming to see that you all
18 got together and got that done today.

19 Just like today, each and every
20 single day our police officers, our men and
21 women, are out there doing a great job.
22 Very rarely does it get recognized. But I
23 know we started this back in September and
24 started back up again. This has been a very
25 big hit. We put it on our Facebook and

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 everybody gets to see it. It's a real good
3 program.

4 Just talking to the commissioner
5 before, we had a couple of incidents over
6 the weekend that were just unbelievable, and
7 a successful conclusions. You had a robbery
8 at a 7-11 in Hicksville. Our police
9 officers are out there in the middle of the
10 night, apprehended the subject. We had a
11 jewelry heist up in Manhasset, Tiffany's, I
12 believe, and our police officers, diligent
13 again. It was all great police work.

14 Today I had the privilege of
15 honoring, you guys had the privilege of
16 honoring, really, two great police officers
17 from the BSO, the Bureau of Special
18 Operations Unit, Officers Robert Gibbons,
19 and Ed Carlson from BSO. For all of you
20 that don't know, BSO is our elite unit where
21 work on street for years as a patrol cop,
22 and very few get asked to belong to this
23 unit. They are the best of the best. They
24 are the cops we call when we get in trouble.

25 Back in December 13, 2014, on

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 holiday patrol, which is increased patrols
3 that the commissioner puts on during the
4 holiday season, in the mall areas, they were
5 driving around, and we know we have had a
6 cold winter, but the police officers drove
7 around with the windows down, not only do
8 you want to see, but you want to be able to
9 hear.

10 In this instance, they actually
11 smelled what was going on. As they were
12 driving around, there was a strong odor of
13 marijuana. As they're driving around the
14 lot in their unmarked car, in plain clothes,
15 they were persistent. They found out where
16 the smell was coming from. They approached
17 the car. There were two people in there, a
18 male and a female. They saw them exchanging
19 a marijuana joint back and forth. They
20 approached the car. Each one of them
21 tactically coming to either side of the car.
22 The male subject claimed he had no ID.

23 I know to the west of us, they're
24 trying to decriminalize marijuana, but I
25 think this is a point why we shouldn't do

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 that here. I know there are no plans to do
3 so, but it starts off with marijuana. Gets
4 the subject out of the car. See the bulge
5 in the waist band. They reach, they
6 understand that's a gun. He starts to
7 runaway. A struggle ensues. They wrestle
8 around with the subject for a couple of
9 minutes. That couple of minutes to a police
10 officer seems like it's days sometimes when
11 you're wrestling around. There was a
12 citizen passerby that came by and helped
13 them. Picked them up out of the car after
14 they got wedged underneath an SUV.

15 But, long story short, because of
16 this diligent patrol that they were doing
17 out there, in a mall during the busiest time
18 of the year, they apprehended somebody who
19 was on parole, and we keep on hearing this,
20 another person on parole carrying a gun, a
21 loaded gun that had the serial number was
22 defaced, probably proceeds from a burglary.
23 Marijuana, and then a subsequent search
24 found crack cocaine. And I believe they had
25 large sums of money on the person, most

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 likely dealing drugs in our neighborhood, in
3 our mall area.

4 So, for that, Officers Gibbons
5 and Carlson are our top cops of the month.
6 Get work that's done every single day and
7 they're just a small example of the great
8 work that our men and women do every day.
9 And thank you guys very much.

10 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: Good
11 afternoon, legislators. I would like to
12 start by thanking all of you for recognizing
13 the police on a monthly basis.

14 Every month it is a challenge to
15 select the cops that are going to be the
16 recipients of the award by this body.
17 Because every single month the cops out
18 there are doing a great job. We talk about
19 it all the time. If you heard it once,
20 you've heard it 1,000 times from myself and
21 a lot of people sitting up there.

22 Nassau County is the safest
23 largest suburban community. Crime is at all
24 time historic low, but that credit doesn't
25 go to anybody here other than the cops

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 standing behind me doing a great job day in
3 and day out.

4 In this particular case, this was
5 at the Hicksville mall. These two police
6 officers were out there and constantly
7 looking for criminals and, in this case,
8 Jimmy Carver pointed out the cases that we
9 see every single day.

10 In this particular case, it's
11 quite clear these two subjects were not
12 carrying a firearm for the good of society.
13 They were going to do something with that
14 firearm, whether that be to further their
15 drug dealing to commit a robbery, and, by
16 their actions, and their restraint, this
17 subject was taken off the street without
18 anybody being seriously injured.

19 I would like to thank Police
20 Officer Carlson, and Police Officer Gibbons
21 for the fine work they have done. They are
22 truly representative of the great work
23 that's done every single day by the men and
24 women assigned to the Bureau of Special
25 Operations. They truly are the unit that we

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 call each and every day when the police
3 officers need assistance. Congratulations
4 and thank you.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Officer
6 Carlson, Officer Gibbons. Would you like to
7 say anything?

8 OFFICER CARLSON: Thank you very
9 much.

10 OFFICER GIBBONS: Thank you very
11 much.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Before we
13 take a photo, Legislator Walker.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: As the
15 officers are coming up, I would like to
16 thank them personally myself, Laura, and
17 Legislator Jacobs who represent the
18 Hicksville community. It's really an honor
19 to know that you are there making us safe.
20 It's a mall that I'm at on a constant basis
21 so I want to take a personal moment to thank
22 each and every one of you. God bless.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just want
24 to have the opportunity to recognize some
25 young people that are here today who are

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 looking to see how the legislature's
3 practice is.

4 We have some guests from the Long
5 Island Youth Coalition Incorporated. They
6 are a group of young children that had the
7 opportunity today to visit with the County
8 Executive as well as with my office to see
9 how government works. They are aspiring
10 future leaders.

11 I had a chance to meet with the
12 young men, each and every one of them. I
13 can tell you they had their head straight
14 on. They asked very good pointed questions.

15 I believe they are making their
16 way in now. Mr. Ivy is here now as a
17 representative of the coalition that's here
18 today. This is a demonstration to give our
19 young people an opportunity on how
20 government works.

21 One of the things I can tell you
22 when I was their age, I didn't know really
23 know how government operated and how it did
24 its business. But, I can tell you, they
25 truly understand that process. I know

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 they're taking their seats, but I would love
3 to have an opportunity, maybe have them come
4 up to the floor, bring them up to the
5 podium.

6 As I was saying before, these are
7 the young men that are part of the Long
8 Island Youth Coalition Incorporated. They
9 are here to monitor us today so we should be
10 on our best behavior, but also they are here
11 to understand and learn how government
12 works.

13 As I said before, they had the
14 opportunity to meet with the County
15 Executive and now they are here to see the
16 legislature in action. I asked the
17 questions, are any of them aspiring elected
18 officials and one young man said he was. I
19 don't know if he is aspiring enough to take
20 the microphone and talk about his experience
21 today, as well as over the summer, but I
22 would, if any of you are willing to, I would
23 love to hear about your experience so far.

24 ISHMAL: So, my dad, he inspired
25 me to become just like you, and he said he

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 wanted me to be the greatest that there was.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Tell me
4 your name.

5 ISHMAL: Ishmal.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Nice to
7 meet you again, Ishmal. Thank you so much.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I met a
9 judge today and I had fun at the police
10 museum.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We met a
12 judge and he told us about life and how hard
13 work can guide us through life, and went to
14 the police museum to see cool things from
15 the past and present.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Cool.
17 Great. Anyone else daring enough?

18 DARNELL: We saw new things, my
19 name is Darnell. It was cool. It was
20 pretty fun.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I thought
22 they were shy, but I get the sense by the
23 pulling of the microphone they're not so
24 shy.

25 DARNELL: We saw some cool

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 things. Like we went and we saw the police
3 museum, we saw the judge.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sounds
5 good. They toured the building as well. I
6 don't know if you wanted to say some things
7 about the coalition, Derrick.

8 DERRICK: We are exposing our
9 young children today to how government works
10 and showing them how leaders that look like
11 them will inspire them to move forward and
12 take part in their community to ensure that
13 they want to see good things happen in our
14 community.

15 As a result of meeting with
16 Mr. Abrahams, I'm sure it's been an
17 inspiration to all of them. Thank you for
18 your time, and thank you for having us, and
19 thank you for showing us your grounds.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: My
21 pleasure. Thank you so much.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
23 Minority Leader Abrahams. I'm sure that the
24 youngsters that were here today certainly
25 appreciate us a little bit more I hope. I

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 I'm hoping that those of you who are here on
3 other issues, that you indulge us in doing
4 this each month primarily because there are
5 so many worthy people out there who deserve
6 the recognition that are given at the Full
7 Leg. I'm sure there are many many more out
8 there. We are willing to do it as long as
9 we are kept in the loop.

10 Now, without any further ado,
11 guess what? I know that we've had a lengthy
12 beginning to the session today; however, we
13 still have a timetable to abide by.

14 So I'm going to ask each speaker
15 to keep within the three-minute limit. The
16 first speaker I have is Judy Sanford Guise.
17 I'm doing what I can with the slips that I
18 have. Are you going to speak? I have Donna
19 Teichner.

20 MS. TEICHNER: Hi. My name is
21 Donna Teichner. I'm a licensed clinical
22 social worker and one of the leaders of the
23 FCA Family Ties Prevention Program.

24 I have been with the program for
25 the last 15 years and have witnessed first

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 hand the growth of the program from
3 servicing 60 families to 200 families, 462
4 children every day.

5 I can also testify directly to
6 the increased challenges and struggles that
7 all of our families are having in Nassau
8 County. So, who are our families? Our
9 clients are single moms with histories of
10 depression, mental health hospitalization,
11 past or present CPS involvement, who,
12 without the safety nets in place, their
13 infants and toddlers with limited community
14 oversight are vulnerable and a very high
15 risk of endangerment.

16 Our clients are victims of
17 domestic violence and childhood abuse and
18 neglect who, because of their own history of
19 trauma, are uncertain how to effectively
20 parent their children.

21 Our clients are the parents and
22 teenagers with mental health illnesses and
23 suicidal ideations who are discharged from
24 mental health facilities only to go home and
25 repeat these patterns of at-risk behaviors.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Our families are struggling with
3 homelessness, cancer, other medical
4 illnesses, children diagnosed with Autism,
5 special needs, chemical dependency, divorce,
6 unemployment, or under employment, and the
7 high rents of Nassau County that few of them
8 can afford.

9 When we meet our families for the
10 first time, they are usually at their lowest
11 points in their lives. They are
12 overwhelmed, isolated and they're
13 embarrassed. Some of them have made
14 horrible mistakes.

15 They are scared and they are
16 unsure if they have the ability to get up
17 and face another day. They don't trust
18 people. Lifting our families above their
19 lives of poverty and abuse, and empowering
20 them to believe in themselves to make better
21 life choices, takes time, takes kindness,
22 takes competent clinical skills, it takes a
23 willingness to go above and beyond, and it
24 takes a caring face to social services.

25 It takes a cohesive team to do

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 this with success and positive outcome. We
3 at FCA Family Ties have been doing just
4 that. In fact we defended our Nassau County
5 contract through a very successful RFP two
6 years ago. We were re-awarded a contract
7 based on a merit of a program that was
8 described as outstanding and extraordinary.

9 Our paychecks are much less than
10 our friends and families in the private
11 sector, and significantly less than our
12 colleagues in the county.

13 I can speak for the entire Family
14 Ties team when I say, this is not just a job
15 for us. We believe in the strengthening of
16 families and the building in of needed
17 services so that all parents can be the best
18 that they can be. We believe that children
19 deserve to be protected, to be loved, and to
20 be safe. We believe that children, with
21 less community oversight, need safety nets
22 and community based programs that we have.

23 The FCA for Family Ties
24 Prevention Program has been just that, a
25 safety net in the community for the past 20

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 years. So now I must ask, why? Why would
3 anyone take this lifeline away from the
4 families, parents, and children who are most
5 in need and most vulnerable, and why would
6 anyone agree to take away the jobs of 25
7 plus workers who bring years of experience
8 and expertise to the families most at risk
9 to create jobs for somebody else? Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.
12 Judy, do you want to speak now?

13 MS. GUISE: Hi. I'm Judy Sanford
14 Guise, and I'm a trustee of Family and
15 Children's Association. I'm part of the
16 group of us who is outside here, all the
17 calls that many of you have received because
18 we need your leadership to work with the
19 parties that are having the dispute that
20 puts family type and other programs probably
21 in Nassau County in jeopardy.

22 We need your leadership to bring
23 the parties together. Time is a very
24 important issue because, our program, it's
25 not March. This is not about March, because

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 everything needs to be in place. We have
3 staffers who don't know how they're going to
4 support their families but this is really
5 not even about our staffers. It's about
6 children. It's about families. It's about
7 the people who are in need in Nassau County
8 and they're your constituents.

9 Our staffers are able to have the
10 time, to take the time that the CSEA workers
11 don't have, and are never going to have. We
12 talk about, our people go in, they are
13 working 24/7. They are able to be with
14 families that have needs, when they have
15 needs, not between 8:30 and 3:00, or
16 whenever the DSS hours are. Troubles don't
17 wait on a schedule. We have the breath of
18 services that can help people beyond what
19 seems to be the immediate problem.

20 Sometimes one needs more than the
21 commitment to offer services as by the
22 staffers at DSS. One sometimes needs the
23 time to devote to it. Also, because we are
24 not the government, sometimes our staffers
25 can get through to people because they don't

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 have the badge or the whatever, they don't
3 have the misperception that the person who
4 is coming to them through DSS, it's a
5 totally different relationship.

6 Our folks for 20 years have been
7 able to reach people reach people and give
8 them the ability to say "I need help," and
9 not just say, this person can take my child.
10 I will pretend it was just a one time
11 incident and it's over or whatever.

12 Our people can actually make some
13 systemic change in those families because
14 they have the time and the time to make the
15 time.

16 I also have a question, which
17 really is, since there are more slots than
18 our 25, what's going to happen with all the
19 other programs in Nassau County? What about
20 the 875 other supposed open slots?

21 Many years ago I stood before the
22 board of supervisors during a time when
23 there was an across the board threat of
24 cuts. I think it was about 20 percent human
25 services cut across the board.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 At that time I was representing
3 the Nassau Chapter of the National
4 Organization For Women. I was receiving
5 many calls every day from people in need,
6 and I was referring to what was then the
7 Daycare Council, the Childcare Council,
8 Family and Children's Association, Family
9 Service League, Children's House for family
10 and children.

11 I stood before Fran Purcell, who
12 was the County Executive at the time, and I
13 asked him if all the programs in Nassau
14 County are decimated? To whom am I supposed
15 to refer people to?

16 I actually had the audacity to
17 ask him his home telephone number because
18 people were calling me at home, that wasn't
19 overly appreciated, so I won't ask you. But
20 your offices get calls from the people.
21 Family and Children's and other programs
22 help your staffers help you do what you do
23 for the people of Nassau County.

24 If the programs are decimated in
25 Nassau County, where are your people and you

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 going to refer people?

3 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes
4 have expired.

5 MS. GUISE: Like I said, we're
6 all really in this together, and, as I said,
7 we need your leadership to bring the parties
8 together and work out something that's
9 equitable. Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
11 Judy. Vera Padgett.

12 MS. PADGETT: Hello everyone.
13 First I would like to give honor to God for
14 being in my life and in control of my life
15 today. I just want to give you a little
16 history of where I'm from today. I am an
17 Army brat. My father served in the United
18 States Army. As a matter of fact, he
19 retired a sergeant.

20 I was born in Frankfurt, Germany
21 on the army base. I have dual citizenship
22 for Germany and the United States.

23 But, when I came over here at
24 nine years old. I was running, me and my
25 mom, for our lives. Because my father had

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 the habit of breaking my mom's ribs and
3 giving her black eyes and sending me to the
4 supermarket to go get the groceries because
5 she was so beat up so bad she couldn't go.

6 So, my mother picked her kids up,
7 she went somewhere, she told me a little bit
8 of the story, she didn't tell me much. She
9 got the sergeant to lay off her so she could
10 come out here with her family.

11 I came over here when I was nine
12 years old in Roosevelt. I was dropped in
13 pure hell. I used to speak German when I
14 got here. I no longer know. I just know
15 how to count. (German) Just to ten, but I
16 had a language of German when I came over
17 here.

18 From being born into sin, and
19 domestic violence and running for my life
20 over here, my mother was a runaway too,
21 because she was the oldest of 15 kids, and
22 she used to get beat every day if she did
23 not take care of them. So she ran from her
24 beatings into my father, and they married,
25 and they had me. I was born into a life

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 that was destined for hell. Do you hear me?
3 Hell. I dropped out of school seventh
4 grade. I ran the streets of Roosevelt. I
5 got pregnant. I had my first baby at 18,
6 and crack cocaine hit the streets. I was so
7 lonely. I had so much pain. I took a drag
8 just to get away. That led me down to a
9 road that I will never ask nobody to ever go
10 down. I had a newborn baby. My mother
11 wanted me to abort. He's 32 years old
12 today. My grandmother told me, you are
13 going to have that baby. Right after she
14 told me to have that baby, she died.

15 Then all the family members
16 turned their backs on me and I went to the
17 streets. I was nothing. I was nobody.
18 Nobody cared about me. Nobody loved me. If
19 it hadn't been for this program, I would not
20 be here today. I would not, not because of
21 my mother, not because the school system,
22 not because of Roosevelt High School, not
23 because of Hempstead, not because of EOC.
24 Not because of none of them. My kids was in
25 the newspaper. My baby daddy's kid got

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 murdered by a Nassau County cop. And nobody
3 knocked on my door to ask me, a piece of
4 bread for any of my children. But they were
5 there. I was suicidal. I want to kill
6 myself, but I couldn't take any kids with
7 me. I love my babies, I got six of them.
8 Six of them.

9 And today I was able to stay in
10 my apartment for 18 years because of them.
11 I was there to fight the demons. They were
12 trying to kill them because of them.

13 I am a grandmother today of four
14 grand babies, and I am being kicked out of
15 the Village of Hempstead because nobody
16 wants to take my Section 8. No housing for
17 me and my babies. Nothing. Everybody
18 dropping the ball. Everybody doing what
19 they want to do. But we dying out there, us
20 young women and mothers. We are cannot take
21 this program from the Village of Hempstead.
22 Nobody cares.

23 Yeah, my babies been in the
24 system. Yeah. And I had to use everybody
25 for them to help to get me where I am today.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Child protective service cannot stand up
3 there and say they would have been there for
4 me like they were. That's all I got to say.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: There are
6 several speakers in regard to this issue.
7 Before I call anyone forward, I'd like you
8 to know, that your cries have not fallen on
9 deaf ears.

10 I have met with Donna, met with
11 Jeff Reynolds, Dr. Imhoff, and I've met with
12 CSEA President Jerry Laricchiuta.

13 At this point in time, it is
14 believed, and I don't know whether or not I
15 can give you anymore than what I'm saying to
16 you now, that it is a work in progress.
17 Communication is going on and they're hoping
18 that they will be able to resolve this in
19 favor of you, who are here today, as well as
20 others who are involved in this issue.

21 So I don't know whether or not
22 Mr. Reynolds would like to get up and speak.
23 I think maybe it would be a good idea, but I
24 will tell you this: A number of you have
25 e-mailed my office, and I was not going to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 respond back until I was able to speak to
3 every one of the parties involved in this
4 issue, and that has happened.

5 I have been reassured that
6 communication is ongoing and hopefully there
7 will be a resolution that will certainly
8 favor Anthony and his grandmother, and I
9 will also say to you that I will not make
10 any promises to you except that I expect all
11 the parties to continue talking and keep
12 this as a work in progress.

13 Mr. Reynolds, let me tell you
14 something, there are several people here
15 from FCA and of course those who are
16 receiving the benefits from the FCA program
17 who would like to speak. But I thought
18 maybe it would be a good idea for you to
19 give us your spin on this and then of course
20 realize the fact that this is not over.
21 We're going to continue to dialogue that
22 needs to be continued.

23 DR. REYNOLDS: Sure. Fair
24 enough. Well, I've discovered that I have
25 my secret weapon should I need to go visit

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Jerry and have a face to face meeting, I
3 know who I'm bringing.

4 So, I'm Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds.
5 I'm the president and CEO of Family and
6 Children's Association.

7 As most of you probably know, FCA
8 is an organization that has been around for
9 131 years serving the residents of Nassau
10 County. We provide a whole range of vital
11 services to our local residents totalling in
12 terms of Nassau County contracts about \$13
13 million in any given year.

14 The issue at hand relates back to
15 a 2012 dispute between CSEA and the county
16 in which the subject of that dispute was a
17 contract related to our PINS diversion
18 program, a completely separate program, with
19 a different function, a different funding
20 stream, quite frankly, housed in a different
21 place.

22 The county and CSEA went through
23 the arbitration process and the county lost
24 in a substantial way, if you read the
25 decision, the decision came out in November

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 of 2014 after several hearings, and several
3 years worth of proceedings.

4 In May I went and met with Dr.
5 Imhoff and his staff in which we had a long
6 discussion about the PINS diversion program
7 and it was my belief then and it is now that
8 the county is not in any position to take on
9 the PINS diversion program, and I walk
10 through it, but with him in the county
11 executive staff, why I thought taking that
12 program back in house would be bad for the
13 county, bad for the taxpayers, and, most
14 importantly, bad for the folks we serve.

15 I think the message was heard
16 loud and clear on June 12th, I was called
17 back to a meeting with Dr. Imhoff and his
18 staff at 3:00 on a Friday. I was told he
19 had great news. The great news was that the
20 PINS diversion program was safe.

21 Before I could actually believe
22 that sign of relief, the second part of that
23 conversation was, but you're giving up
24 Family Ties. I said, well, wait a minute.
25 We came in to talk about apples, and this

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 conversation is evidently about oranges, a
3 completely different program. Family Ties,
4 as you probably heard, is a foster care
5 prevention program that served the residents
6 of Nassau County for 20 years, essentially
7 the goal of the program is to provide enough
8 services to families who at risk, for kids
9 at risk to ensure that those kids aren't
10 removed and placed into foster care.

11 By the way, our success rate in
12 non-removals, right now is about 98 percent.
13 Only two percent of those children wind up
14 and placed into foster care.

15 Before we took the program on 20
16 years ago, a whole lot has happened in 20
17 years, granted, but the removal rate was
18 closer to 15 to 20 percent, so we've
19 dramatically reduced the cost of placements.

20 The program is a \$2.2 million
21 program. So on Monday morning I went and
22 met with the staff, many of whom are here.
23 If you're part of the Family Ties program,
24 would you raise your hands. I went and met
25 with those folks, told them that although

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 they had done a great job, that this was an
3 A plus program, that although DSS
4 Commissioner John Imhoff told me he was
5 devastated by this, that the program was
6 being taken away and would have closed as of
7 March 1.

8 Our kids and our families are
9 being caught in the crossfire between CSEA
10 and Nassau County. The Nassau County
11 Department of Social Services currently has
12 900 positions. I have asked repeatedly why
13 this program? Why now? If you are afraid
14 of liability, and a 12 year old gang
15 involved kid scares the hell out of you
16 politically, these infants and families
17 ought to scare you even more.

18 As you heard from Donna, these
19 are staff working 24/7. I'm not proud of
20 this fact, but I'll tell you that the
21 messengers in DSS make more than my social
22 workers. Sorry, guys. That our staff are
23 available 24/7. This is a dynamite program.

24 My fear and, quite frankly,
25 should be yours too, is that this program

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 winds up going back into the hands of the
3 county. This is not to disparage county
4 workers. We bring more than a million bucks
5 worth of extra services with this program at
6 no cost to the taxpayer. This program goes
7 back into the hands of the county. It's a
8 high risk program if somebody bad happens to
9 a child.

10 News 12 and Newsday will be right
11 back here saying, what happened? Why did
12 you pull the plug on a program that was
13 working so well? Why did you pull a plug on
14 a program that had no fatalities and what's
15 happened now?

16 This is one of the things in
17 Nassau County, as you try to reduce the size
18 of government, that works well. There is a
19 reason you came to us 20 years ago and said,
20 can you do it, and can you do it better than
21 us? Our answer was, unequivocally, yes, we
22 can do it better and here's how.

23 The fact that this program has
24 wound up on the chopping block, I haven't
25 been able to figure it out. How this

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 program? Why this program? The only thing
3 that comes to mind is, it's kids. It's
4 larger kids from impoverished communities
5 where families have a whole bunch of things
6 to worry about. They are not all coming
7 here.

8 So, my request is very simple.
9 The arbitrator who I contacted said to me,
10 it's very important for you to know that my
11 award is an interim award, and that the
12 matter is still pending.

13 If you read the arbitrator's
14 award, nowhere does it say, this program
15 must be given up. In fact, all of the 39
16 pages in that decision relate to PINS
17 diversion, not to this program.

18 So, there is room for all of you,
19 for the County Executive, for DSS
20 Commissioner John Imhoff and Jerry
21 Laricchiuta to get together and find a
22 different solution to this problem. I urge
23 you to do that.

24 And, here's the other thing, I
25 know it's not March, but if you come to us

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 in January and say, heads up, you can keep
3 the program, these staff, my advice will
4 have found other jobs. You will have a
5 whole bunch of kids without services. Then
6 you will have Anthony's Grandma showing up
7 on your doorstep saying, how did you let
8 this happen?

9 I welcome any of your questions
10 and I appreciate the opportunity to be here
11 today.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jeff, let
13 me say to you what I said to the audience
14 before. That is, that communication is
15 ongoing.

16 I am hopeful and that's the
17 cockeyed optimist that I am, that there will
18 be a resolution and it's not going to happen
19 in January.

20 I think the best bet at this
21 point, Jeff, is to continue that dialogue.
22 As I said to you the other day, I want to
23 know if it is continuing, if communication
24 is still ongoing, and that there is room,
25 and I know that in communicating with one

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 another, you may find the room to resolve
3 this and resolve it to the interest of those
4 who are receiving the services from FCA.

5 So I will ask you to do what is
6 best, not only for your employees, but for
7 the families that are served by FCA, and
8 continue that dialogue.

9 If that dialogue doesn't continue
10 or it's not going in the direction that you
11 would like to see it go into, then that's
12 when we, as a body, can start using a little
13 bit more of our concerns to the
14 administration and to all the parties
15 involved.

16 But, this is what I said to you
17 the other day, continue the dialogue. There
18 is more than enough time. I'm not saying
19 that January or even September, for that
20 matter, should go without this being
21 resolved, and resolved to the interest of
22 all parties involved.

23 So, please, that's what I'm
24 asking you to do. I know sometimes it's
25 hard to continue dialogue when your heart is

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 set on the interest of your group and
3 rightfully so.

4 I come from a different
5 background from many of my colleagues
6 sitting up here. But I will tell you this,
7 that I always know when you continue to
8 talk, all right, and find the common ground,
9 and I know there is common ground, and I
10 can't say any more to you today.

11 DR. REYNOLDS: We are fully
12 committed to continuing the dialogue, as you
13 can tell, we are not shy about
14 communicating, so, understand, we will
15 continue that dialogue both from our staff
16 perspective as well as from our family's
17 perspective.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And I want
19 you to keep me appraised.

20 DR. REYNOLDS: Absolutely.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
22 Jacobs.

23 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Jeff, I just
24 have certain questions. I don't want to
25 take time and throw them all out.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 DR. REYNOLDS: Sure.

3 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And what you
4 feel you can answer, just interrupt me.

5 Is there a programmatic reason
6 why social workers from a community
7 organization might be better positioned to
8 serve these services that are needed rather
9 than Nassau County employees?

10 DR. REYNOLDS: Absolutely. It
11 all comes down to trust and relationships.
12 I don't wear a DSS badge or staff don't wear
13 DSS badges which means that we are more
14 likely to have conversations. If our staff
15 can't physically remove a child, that family
16 is more like to be open and honest about
17 what's going on and what their challenges
18 are and how we can help them.

19 Again, help them through a whole
20 continuum of services. That center that we
21 run in Hempstead provides a whole bunch of
22 things; everything from summer camps, to
23 toys around the holidays, that kind of
24 thing. It really creates that trusting bond
25 that you need in order to get in and deal

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 with the issues.

3 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: So, following
4 up then, I know we have all seen several
5 large nonprofits, a lot of business
6 recently, what does this mean, what does
7 what we're talking about mean to FCA as an
8 agency if this actually happens?

9 DR. REYNOLDS: Look, I think part
10 of what you are getting to is the FEES issue
11 and there are several other not for profits
12 that have gone in the same direction. Where
13 there's probably a back story in that
14 particular instance, probably two or three
15 back stories, the reality is, most of these
16 programs are chronically underfunded.

17 The rates in this program, for
18 example, haven't changed in the 20 years
19 since we've gotten the contract, which is
20 why my folks make less than DSS messengers.

21 I would say, although this is a
22 relatively small percentage of our budget,
23 it's an entire program that has several
24 wraparound components.

25 So, if we lose it, I'm going to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 have a hard time going to donors and raising
3 a million bucks saying, would you like to
4 send needy kids to camp during the summer so
5 their parents can have some respite?

6 So, it's not the money for us.

7 Our goal, look, our goal as a
8 not-for-profit, our goal is one day to go
9 out of business. After 130 years I'm not
10 sure it's going to happen soon. But I would
11 love our programs to get smaller because the
12 need has disappeared.

13 This year we are on track to
14 serve twice as many families as we did
15 before and I worry about the amount of not
16 for profits disappearing from our community
17 and what's left. And we're seeing them go
18 out of business left and right.

19 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I have to say
20 that I do agree with the county, it would be
21 the presiding officer, and that is that
22 obviously discussions hopefully will yield a
23 good result on all ends. I'm glad to hear
24 that Jerry has been speaking to you and
25 actually part of the conversation because I

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 think CSEA is a pivotal part of the
3 conversation.

4 I'm wondering, when you spoke to
5 DSS, what was the reaction from DSS when you
6 spoke to them?

7 DR. REYNOLDS: I think the
8 Department of Social Services, and I don't
9 want to speak to Dr. Imhoff, but he's been
10 pretty clear about the fact that he's very
11 very concerned about this. They're really
12 concerned about taking it on. We're
13 breaking something that's working really
14 really well.

15 So, all of my conversations with
16 him have been very supportive. I think I
17 said it to you, Judy, if this were a C plus
18 program and the county came to us and said,
19 look, you're not really doing a great job,
20 we're going to try this in-house and give it
21 a whirl and maybe we can do better, I would
22 get that. I would understand it.
23 Certainly, I wouldn't have a press
24 conference on your front steps and come and
25 stand here and make the case for money. We

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 would slink off with our tail between our
3 legs and try to do better.

4 This is an A plus by all
5 accounts. I think, quite frankly, the DSS
6 commissioner is probably looking at this and
7 saying, why would we break something that's
8 working? And, if it's broken to the point
9 it endangers families, who has to answer the
10 questions about those families and those
11 kids? It's going to be the DSS
12 commissioner.

13 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I hope the
14 same concern has been expressed by the
15 administration.

16 DR. REYNOLDS: I have conveyed my
17 thoughts to Mr. Nevin on more than one
18 occasion as well as to Rob Walker. So I
19 hope they understand. Certainly we had some
20 folks who have called that office who have
21 let their feelings be known.

22 We are talking with anybody and
23 everybody about this because, quite frankly,
24 it's a crisis. A crisis among kids in this
25 county. I think you guys probably recognize

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 it as such, but we need to treat it as such.

3 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Finally, let
4 me just say one thing, this is the only
5 place we may differ a little bit. You are
6 here before the legislature, you had your
7 rally on the steps of the legislature.

8 So, I'm also a cockeyed optimist
9 and I'd like to believe that cooler heads
10 will prevail and that between CSEA and
11 yourself and the County Executive, there
12 will be a meeting ground met that can keep
13 everybody alive and whole.

14 But I also know that there must
15 be things that we, as legislators, or maybe
16 there are things that we, as legislators,
17 could be helpful with in your opinion as to
18 how we can bring forces together. Or is
19 that happening naturally at this point?

20 DR. REYNOLDS: I don't think it's
21 happening quite fast enough. Quite frankly,
22 the lack of dialogue put us in this
23 position, so if DSS had come to us and said,
24 look, we have a problem, we need to give
25 CSEA x number of jobs, do you have any ideas

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 about how to do that? I wouldn't have
3 suggested that you simply wipe out an entire
4 program.

5 I think historically the
6 not-for-profits have worked cooperatively
7 with the county to address financial issues
8 and to find ways to maximize the programs
9 that are out there. So, if DSS had come to
10 me and said, look, here is our problem, do
11 you have a solution? This would have been
12 the last thing I recommended, and said,
13 look, you are a big department with a lot of
14 programs, let's have a very thoughtful
15 conversation about ways in which we might be
16 able to get a job from here or a job from
17 there in order to make CSEA whole and keep
18 the programs intact. I think there are more
19 productive ways to do this.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going
21 to intercede right now.

22 Mr. Reynolds, you have to say in
23 the past two weeks, as soon as this was
24 brought to our attention, we didn't sit back
25 and do nothing.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 DR. REYNOLDS: Yes.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And it was
4 my intent as well as the members on this
5 body that all those parties involved in this
6 issue have to be at the table.

7 I think at this point in time
8 they are at the table. And, as I said to
9 you earlier before that we need to continue
10 that dialogue. If it ceases, then we need
11 to know that you have reached a stalemate.

12 I'm telling you right now, this
13 body then will intercede in the way it
14 should. Listen to me, right now, if they
15 are at the table and they are talking, let
16 the dialogue have a chance to continue.

17 Yes, I am a cockeyed optimist.
18 But I do believe that there is a solution
19 down the road, and I can't say anything more
20 than that.

21 DR. REYNOLDS: We appreciate
22 that. We will remain in contact with your
23 office and keep you appraise you on how
24 things are going. Thank you for your time.
25 We really appreciate.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
3 very much.

4 Now, there are several people who
5 want to speak on this issue now that
6 Mr. Reynolds has spoken. I have a Nawaal
7 Walker, Eileen Duffy, are you getting up? I
8 have a Keisha Wilson and Eileen. And you
9 are?

10 MS. DUFFY: Eileen Duffy. Thank
11 you for your public service and for allowing
12 me to speak.

13 I am a licensed clinical social
14 worker. I worked in the Malverne School
15 District for over 26 years. I've worked
16 very closely with Family Ties. The Malverne
17 School District is very unique in the fact
18 that we are mixed ethnically, we are mixed
19 economically. We have very solid middle
20 class families, but we do have some families
21 that really struggle to raise their
22 children.

23 With those families, we have been
24 able to ask and get assistance from Family
25 Ties Service workers. They have done

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 everything that the can possibly do to
3 support those families. They have been
4 there 24/7 for those families. They have
5 come to school meetings, they plan for those
6 families.

7 The thing is this: When a child
8 goes into foster care and a family breaks
9 up, it's very very difficult to put that
10 family back together again. Family Ties
11 really prevents that from happening.

12 You know, a lot of times when you
13 are outside in Nassau County, people don't
14 think, it's a rich county, that there's not
15 kids that are worrying about where they're
16 going to get lunch today, or what's going to
17 be happening.

18 Also, when a kid goes into foster
19 care, they not only lose their family, they
20 lose their school, their community. That's
21 where we have really been very lucky with in
22 that way that Family Ties has allowed us
23 keep kids in our building that really get a
24 lot of support from the personnel and the
25 teachers in the building. We don't want to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 lose that. We really want to keep this
3 program going.

4 It's been very, very valuable for
5 our school district and we hope you will
6 really consider this in your decisions.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I did call
9 Nawaal Walker. Is that you?

10 MS. WILSON: No. My name is
11 Keisha Wilson. I am the program coordinator
12 with Family and Children Family Ties
13 Preventive Program and today I am reading a
14 letter on behalf of one of our community
15 colleagues. She couldn't be here but she
16 did ask me to read this letter on her
17 behalf. So I'm going to read the letter.

18 "I am writing this letter in
19 support of my friends and colleagues at
20 Family and Children's Association, Family
21 Ties Preventive Program. I coordinate two
22 programs that focus on the mental health and
23 recovery of Nassau County children,
24 children's crisis respite and children's
25 hospital discharge.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 I have worked with Family Ties
3 for the last 12 years that I have worked in
4 my position. Parents and children with a
5 mental illness, are often the most isolated
6 left with few supports and find themselves
7 unprepared for the challenges of raising
8 such a child. As a result, these children
9 may be at risk for long term hospitalization
10 and other restrictive placements such as
11 foster care.

12 I have worked with Family Ties in
13 both programs. They have made referrals to
14 crisis respite to give overwhelmed families
15 the break needed to decompress, acquire new
16 services, and resolve issues that led to the
17 crisis at hand.

18 Children's hospital discharge
19 involves planning for children's return home
20 following a psychiatric hospitalization. My
21 work with Family Ties in hospital discharge
22 cases often involve a child currently in the
23 hospital whose family member or members are
24 refusing their return home.

25 Under those circumstances, the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 only option for me would normally be to call
3 CPS and have the child removed. As I work
4 with the hospital, Family Ties works with
5 the family to find alternative placement for
6 the child or adding additional services to
7 keep the child in the home.

8 Family Ties staff regularly
9 attends BOA meetings to provide families
10 with psycho education, support services
11 geared toward wellness and family advocacy.

12 The Family Ties' goal is to help
13 families during periods of crisis to avoid
14 placing children in foster care, and that
15 has been evident throughout my time working
16 with Family Ties.

17 This is a dedicated group of
18 people who are committed to doing what they
19 do. They have always been an asset to our
20 work and it would be devastating to lose
21 everybody working with Children and
22 Families.

23 Respectively, Sherri-Ann Best,
24 she works for the Mental Health Association
25 of Nassau County and she is the coordinator

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 of Children's Crisis Respite and Hospital
3 Discharge Planning." Thank you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I believe
5 we have exceeded the 30 minute public
6 participation portion.

7 CLERK MULLER: Yes, ma'am.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We will
9 get back to those who requested to speak
10 before us today after we complete the
11 calendar and we will be here to listen to
12 your comments.

13 So, without any further ado, we
14 are now ready to open the calendar for that
15 session.

16 So that I don't keep anymore of
17 you waiting unnecessarily, right now what we
18 usually do is confer with the minority to
19 find out which items on the calendar are
20 consensual, and that means they have gone
21 through committee and approved unanimously
22 by the committees.

23 So until we get the consent
24 calendar, there is an opportunity for us to
25 ask others to speak until we get that

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 consent calendar. So I'm going to call
3 Nawaal Walker. After that Virginia
4 Singletary. Is she here? After Nawaal,
5 Virginia, you can speak. That would be most
6 of the people who are here from FCA.

7 MS. WALKER: I don't know how to
8 start. I have never done this, so please
9 pardon me.

10 I'm originally from Corona,
11 Queens, New York. I came here in my first
12 car, a 1993 Chevrolet Corsica filled with my
13 three children running away from an abusive
14 relationship.

15 I would like to take the time
16 very briefly to thank every one that came in
17 today in support of Family Ties and their
18 services.

19 I'm a teenage mom, I'm not a
20 teenager now, but when I became a parent, I
21 was 13 years old.

22 I came from abuse, molestation,
23 and feeling like I had no place in the
24 world. I came here at 21 years old. No
25 high school diploma, because I was strong,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 and the fact that because I made children, I
3 will take care of them. So I have been
4 working since I was 13 years old. I
5 committed myself to raising my children and
6 being the best parent that I could be
7 despite how I felt about myself or my
8 circumstances.

9 Coming to Nassau County I was
10 alone, I had no help from their father. I
11 had no help from any family. I had no one.
12 I suffer from major depression to this day.
13 I have a number or multitude of health
14 issues that I believe come from being so
15 torn inside.

16 I also want to say hello to you,
17 Mr. Abrahams, you came to my church last
18 year. At the Zion Cathedral in Freeport,
19 New York. I want to say thank you to you
20 because you always made an effort to come
21 out into the community and make us all feel
22 like we matter.

23 But I'm here in support of Family
24 Ties because not only did I need their
25 services then as a 21 year old young mother,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 but I'm going to be 35 next week. I have
3 lost my job. I'm disabled with no
4 disabilities. I get treated like garbage
5 when I go to the Department of Social
6 Services and tell them what I need and what
7 my children may need.

8 These are the people that are
9 here for me. They show me where I need to
10 go. They are the reason why I'm getting
11 help for my depression. They are the reason
12 why my family is not torn apart.

13 This young man, I don't know if
14 you can see him, he went to Malverne School
15 District. He's living proof that this
16 program helps. His name is a Shacore
17 Jermane Walker and he's my son. Everybody
18 in my school said that my son would never
19 make it, that he would be just another gang
20 banger on the street. But when they came
21 into our lives, he tried it, he tried Blood,
22 he tried Crips. He was vandalizing
23 properties, he was misguided. Why? Because
24 he watched his mother get brutally beaten
25 every day of his life. He had no way to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 channel those energies. They helped us.

3 I plead with you, I urge with you
4 to continue to continue to converse and
5 continue to speak on our behalf because we
6 need these services. And some day -- I'm a
7 medical assistant, unemployed medical
8 assistant, but I believe every single hand
9 that helps is a helping hand. We need more
10 than two, more than four, we need many. It
11 takes a village. It does. That's all I
12 have to say. Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Where is
14 Virginia?

15 MS. SINGLETARY: Good afternoon.
16 My name is Virginia Singletary. I'm here
17 today on behalf of Family and Children.

18 I am a single parent with three
19 beautiful young ladies. My second daughter
20 was actually a part of this program. And
21 today, my third daughter is part of this
22 program.

23 I come to you asking that you
24 would assist and help us to keep this
25 program afloat. Without this program, two

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 of my children would not still be with me
3 today. Today, my third daughter has a lot
4 of disabilities, but, you know what? This
5 program taught me that because she has
6 disabilities doesn't mean that we stuck.
7 I'm begging that you would continue to fight
8 this fight with us so that not only my
9 children, not my grandchildren, but
10 everyone's children can be in these shoes
11 today. Not only mine, and the rest of the
12 families that's in this program.

13 I am one of these parents that
14 went to the Department of Social Services.
15 Because I was called by a number, I had no
16 trust for this program, and Department of
17 Social Services. I'm not saying that they
18 don't help, but because I was able to be
19 called by my name when I was in this
20 program, I was able to say, okay, I am
21 someone, and my daughter will be someone,
22 because we were called by our name and not a
23 number. I was able to open up and trust. I
24 have a lot of trust issues, but that's not
25 why I'm here today.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 I'm here today so that our
3 children of the future can be sitting around
4 here where you all are sitting today.
5 There's only one way to do that and that's
6 to continue to keep these programs that help
7 our children stay home, to teach us that we
8 can do the same thing that DSS can do with
9 this program that they think there are going
10 to put upstairs. It's not going to happen.

11 If we get enough families like
12 there and people that sit around here and
13 listen to the cry that we have today for our
14 children of the future.

15 I'm asking that you continue to
16 listen to the voices that are crying out to
17 you. Thank you very much. It doesn't take
18 three minutes to say what you need to say.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You did a
20 good job, Virginia.

21 At this point in time we do have
22 a consent calendar. As I said, after that,
23 we will take those who are here to speak but
24 I think that we have -- I will give you a
25 chance to leave the chamber before I begin

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 to call the consent items. I think we're
3 okay.

4 The consent items, like I said to
5 you before are items that went through
6 committees and approved unanimously, and the
7 those committees are always incorporated
8 into the transcript of the Full Legislature.

9 I'm going to begin calling those
10 items. I begin with Item 1, Item 2, Item 3,
11 Item 4, Item 5, Item 6, Item 7, Item 8, Item
12 10, Item 12, Item 14, Item 16, Item 17, Item
13 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,
14 29, 30, 31, and 32.

15 (Whereupon, please refer to the
16 minutes of the committee meetings dated June
17 29, 2015 pertaining to Calendar Items 1-8,
18 10, 12, 14, 16-32.)

19 A motion, please.

20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
23 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
24 Kopel. Is there any comments or public
25 comments on these items? It has to do with

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 an item that we just called, correct,
3 Mr. Boitel, and since you have a slip in,
4 you may as well speak on it. Stay on the
5 topic.

6 MR. BOITEL: In looking at all
7 those items that you have just called off,
8 and which you are now going to summarily
9 dispose of apparently by consent, there's no
10 indication on any of these items what the
11 amount of money is if it involves any money.
12 The amount either intentionally or
13 ignorantly, your calendar is designed to
14 obfuscate what is actually occurring.

15 It starts out with everything
16 being written in caps, which is absolutely
17 absurd in this day and age. Anybody knows
18 that something in caps is not legible. But,
19 that being the case, there's no information
20 here. How is the public to know --

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr.
22 Boitel, I'm interrupting you, these items
23 went through committees. The information
24 that you are seeking was available at that
25 particular time and is also available now if

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 you wish to contact the clerk's office.

3 MR. BOITEL: We are not talking
4 about transparency, ma'am, and I'm telling
5 you that --

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What items
7 are you talking about?

8 MR. BOITEL: By the way, if one
9 should go to your website to try to get this
10 calendar, one would find that the website is
11 a hodgepodge in trying to find things, the
12 average person would find it practically
13 impossible to find this information or find
14 the background information concerning it.

15 I should also indicate that with
16 regard to all of this and transparency, the
17 District Attorney of Nassau County has
18 recently issued a report concerning the
19 inadequacy of the procedures of this
20 legislature. I have two copies of that
21 report here and I would like to formally
22 file them; one with the clerk and one with
23 you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr.
25 Boitel, we have those reports.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 MR. BOITEL: Is it on file?

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It should
4 be.

5 MR. BOITEL: It seems to me that
6 related to all of what I'm talking about,
7 that is the transparency of the conveyance
8 of information to the public, or even to
9 each other, for that matter, should be the
10 subject of a hearing in and of itself by
11 this legislature.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I don't
13 believe you are speaking to the calendar but
14 to a report.

15 MR. BOITEL: What I'm really
16 speaking to is whether this group, as a
17 body, has ever in recent times in memory
18 discussed the issues I'm talking about, each
19 of which affects each item on your calendar.

20 That is, have you talked about
21 public disclosure, the adequacy and
22 transparency of what it is you do?

23 I have never seen a real
24 discussion here concerning that subject.
25 There are heart hearted measures, sometimes

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 debater's points that are raised, but no
3 real substantive discussion. I think it's
4 about time you did so.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let's go,
6 Mr. Budnick.

7 MR. BUDNICK: Number 4 and 8. We
8 seem to be having a problem in certain
9 villages I've attended, some public
10 meetings, and the villages are not getting
11 reports, not even outdated reports, as to
12 what the crime situation is in their
13 village. I'm particularly thinking of
14 Massapequa Park and Farmingdale and a couple
15 of other villages.

16 There are a lot of people
17 scratching their heads why on earth it is,
18 villages who had have their own police
19 departments must file reports with the
20 federal government and they can't get this
21 information from the Nassau County police.
22 Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
24 Mr. Budnick. There are several items before
25 us. A motion was made by Legislator Walker,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 and seconded by Legislator Kopel. If
3 there's no further comments, all those in
4 favor of the items that were called today as
5 part of the consent calendar signify by
6 saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 The items pass unanimously.

11 Now I'm going to the items. The
12 first item, Item 9, Ordinance 85 an
13 ordinance supplemental to the annual
14 appropriation ordinance in connection with
15 the Department of Public Works.

16 Motion, please.

17 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
20 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
21 Nicolello.

22 MR. BUTLER: John Butler,
23 Department of Public Works. This item
24 appropriates equal amounts of reimbursement
25 from federal and state funds for capital

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 purchases related to NICE Bus. Basically
3 it's the capital portion. It doesn't have
4 anything to do with the operations of NICE
5 Bus other than purchasing capital items with
6 long term, useful lives.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
8 Ford, ask your question.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: So, with these
10 capital purchases, are you moving the bus to
11 the national gas buses or are you changing
12 them?

13 MR. BUTLER: That would be
14 covered under this. Most of the buses that
15 we do in fact purchase are natural gas, so
16 that is absolutely part of this, yes.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: What other
18 upgrades, with the para-transport, with the
19 Able system, what do you --

20 MR. BUTLER: It also does cover
21 long term items such as maybe technology
22 improvements, things like that. Things that
23 have a useful life of longer than five
24 years.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Because I know

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 with the Able a lot of times we are trying
3 to make it so it's a more streamlined system
4 so that they would be able to know where the
5 buses are, the Able buses are, so that if
6 they need to pick up somebody, or if you
7 don't have a bus going on one block and then
8 a bus on another block, where you could have
9 a bus go on both locations.

10 MR. BUTLER: That's included in
11 the ITS, Intelligent Transportation System.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Are you trying
13 any type of upgrades to the NICE system to
14 see whether or not you need to change any
15 type of buses or type of vehicles you're
16 using to pick up riders?

17 MR. BUTLER: We are obviously
18 trying to improve the technology to deploy
19 it more efficiently where ever possible, but
20 also a lot of this has to do with just
21 normal useful life of certain vehicles being
22 met and you have to rotate the old ones out
23 and bring the new ones in, and thankfully
24 for us, the taxpayers of Nassau County, 90
25 cents on every dollar of costs like that are

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 covered here.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. So going
4 back then to the regular buses. I had the
5 opportunity to ride the bus one day just to
6 see what it was like. I noticed that it was
7 very hard for people to know what stop was
8 coming. Is this part of the upgrade to the
9 system, so that if I'm on the bus I would be
10 able to see if I'm coming up to Roosevelt
11 Avenue or Mineola Boulevard, if that's a
12 stop?

13 MR. BUTLER: Absolutely that's
14 part of the ITS system that we hope to
15 upgrade very soon.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Is it also then
17 going to be audible for those who are sight
18 impaired as well?

19 MR. BUTLER: There will be
20 announcements before the stop happens and
21 things like that.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Is it
23 operational on any buses yet or are we still
24 waiting to get this?

25 MR. BUTLER: It think we are

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 still waiting. Getting these grants
3 obviously helps speed that up.

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
5 much.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
7 Jacobs.

8 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I just have a
9 question for you. This is a \$21,150,000
10 item. Listen, I have been a long time
11 supporter for bus service, and very upset
12 obviously that a quarter of the county
13 doesn't have it where I live, where
14 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton lives and
15 Legislator MacKenzie lives. We don't have
16 logical bus service and we don't have
17 Able-ride. But we still support -- I still
18 support you because I certainly don't want
19 to see that happen around the county.

20 But I do have a question to ask
21 you. There's \$21,150,000 today. Do we know
22 what is expected financially in this whole
23 thing? Because I'll tell you why I'm asking
24 you that. Because I would really appreciate
25 a list of what our anticipated expenses

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 were, and what our actual expense was. For
3 example.

4 The only one I know for sure is
5 that in 2012, anticipated was going to be as
6 far as expenses go \$107,202,870 and the
7 actual was \$116,200,000 plus, close to 119.
8 We haven't heard for 2014 yet, but it seems
9 to me it's going up and up and up, and I
10 would really love to get a form of what
11 we've spent versus what was the anticipated
12 expenditure to help us understand what is
13 going on.

14 MR. BUTLER: You want a
15 historical outlay?

16 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Yes.

17 MR. BUTLER: I actually think
18 you're talking about operating funds, aren't
19 you?

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I don't know.
21 I'm asking you. Is it possible that it's
22 all operating that I'm talking about?

23 MR. BUTLER: I think so, yes.
24 This is actually just for the capital but
25 those numbers sound very familiar to me as

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 probably what the operating costs of the
3 services are.

4 The way to think about it is,
5 this stuff kind of purchases the buses and
6 the technology can be deployed anywhere
7 depending on the operating level. I think
8 the numbers that you're citing there sound
9 like they're operating numbers, but I can
10 take a look into that for you and probably
11 provide you with both operating and capital
12 expenditure historically if that's what you
13 are looking for.

14 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I would
15 really appreciate it, because obviously the
16 reason why NICE Bus came along to begin
17 with, the expenditure was getting so
18 astronomical, MTA was going to walk unless
19 we were giving in more, and the bottom line
20 is, it's looking to me like we are giving in
21 much more.

22 I don't know what that means
23 because the concern is, 2016 is around the
24 corner. We were able to stave off a hike in
25 the bus fares for this year, but we are just

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 about falling over the edge. Nothing
3 against NICE, they have been extremely nice
4 to deal with and certainly Michael Setzer is
5 a very class act kind of guy.

6 Bottom line is, I think we are
7 spending much more than we anticipated
8 spending. If I see it in black and white I
9 would really love to have that.

10 MR. BUTLER: I would be happy to
11 provide that for you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
13 DeRiggi-Whitton.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm
15 not sure you would be the proper person to
16 ask for this, I've been curious to see what
17 the profit has been for NICE for almost the
18 last 3 and a half years that they have had.
19 So if that's possible to also get that in
20 writing, I just want to see it, I think we
21 are entitled to see how much of a profit
22 they are making from this.

23 MR. BUTLER: I'll take a look.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Thank
25 you.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Are there
3 any other comments?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 Is there any public comment?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 There being none, all those in
8 favor of Item 9 signify by saying aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Any opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 The item passes unanimously.

13 Now, for Item 11, an ordinance to
14 create a land bank in Nassau County.

15 Motion, please.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
19 Deputy Presiding Officer Nicolello, seconded
20 by Alternate Legislator Kopel.

21 At this point in time, however,
22 there is an amendment to the item. And the
23 amendment has to do with adding directors to
24 the board and SEQRA determination.

25 A motion to amend the item.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
5 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
6 Dunne.

7 MR. RAGANETTI: Good afternoon.
8 I'm David Raganetti. I'm a Deputy County
9 Attorney.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on,
11 David. I missed a step. All those in favor
12 of the amendment signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 Any opposed?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 The item is amended.

17 For the item as amended, David.

18 MR. RAGANETTI: Yes. This item
19 authorizes the creation of a land bank in
20 Nassau County pursuant to the state enacting
21 law, that's Article 16 the New York Not For
22 Profit Law.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any
24 questions of David?

25 (No verbal response.)

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Any public comment?

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I have a
4 comment.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
6 Bynoe.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. As
8 you would know, presiding officer, and
9 probably many of the members of the
10 legislature would know that I authored a
11 letter to you and the County Executive to
12 express my concerns about the current
13 legislation that's being voted on today.

14 I would like to offer on to the
15 record a copy of that letter. I would also
16 just like to take a moment to state that I
17 am disappointed because I believe that we
18 are missing an opportunity here to deal with
19 not only zombie homes but the lack of
20 affordable housing on Long Island.

21 The bill that was introduced by
22 myself and Legislator Curran had that
23 component in it, and I think it's a missed
24 opportunity and I think that this was a
25 meaningful way of dealing with both of those

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 issues and having a successful outcome.

3 So the letter is on file and I
4 intend on voting for the item but I just
5 wanted to make it clear that I really feel
6 we missed a significant opportunity to do
7 something above the status quo. Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
9 Ford.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm sorry that
11 I wasn't in the committee on this one. But
12 how many times a year are they required to
13 meet?

14 MR. RAGANETTI: I believe that
15 would come into play when they authorize
16 their bylaws. We don't have that in this
17 legislation right now.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: How long before
19 they authorize their bylaws?

20 MR. RAGANETTI: The next step,
21 after -- if the leg decides to authorize the
22 creation of the land bank, ultimately it
23 hinges upon approval from the Empire State
24 Development Corporation.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Is there any

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 way of being notified when there is a board
3 meeting if any of us would like to attend?

4 I'm guessing they would be open meetings?

5 MR. RAGANETTI: Yes, this would
6 be a public authority, there would be open
7 meeting laws applying. I'm sure that notice
8 would be communicated to your office perhaps
9 by the board members themselves, but,
10 otherwise it would be an open public
11 meeting.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm going to
13 guess that none of these positions are paid,
14 right?

15 MR. RAGANETTI: Correct.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
17 much.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
19 Curran.

20 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: So I have to
21 say that I'm very very excited to be voting
22 on this today.

23 We missed an opportunity in the
24 last couple of years because we didn't have
25 a land bank, and missing out on \$33 million

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 in grant funds. So now that we have a
3 creation, now that we will be, I hope,
4 creating this land bank, we will have access
5 to these kinds of state resources to take
6 advantage of them to help solve or zombie
7 crisis here in Nassau County.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: David, you
9 have a reply to that? There is a state
10 grant out there for this land bank, correct?

11 MR. RAGANETTI: From what I have
12 heard, the administration has been speaking
13 with the Attorney General's Office and there
14 will be money available.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Right.
16 Not \$33 million. I don't believe it's 33,
17 but it's a sizeable number. Any other
18 comments?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 Is there any public comment? Mr.
21 Budnick.

22 MR. BUDNICK: Thank you again,
23 Madam Chairwoman. I'm curious as to whether
24 there will be any direct, that is to say,
25 any membership on this organization or other

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 input by the County Planning Commission,
3 Open Space Committee, or Nassau County Water
4 and Soil Conservation Board? Thank you.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Once
6 again, Mr. Budnick, there is an individual
7 in the back that has their hand raised. You
8 don't have a slip. David, don't go away.
9 She has a question. What is your name?

10 MS. EPSTEIN: Barbara Epstein. I
11 just have a question. Is there a place I
12 can get some more information about how this
13 land bank would be available to us and how
14 it would function?

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: David? It
16 has to meet first, I think. You can
17 certainly have my information off the
18 record. To discuss right now, this is a
19 legislation which authorizes the creation,
20 so there is a little bit of as to how it
21 will function, what it will do that will
22 come next, of course, but I would be happy
23 to --

24 MS. EPSTEIN: But what's the
25 purpose of it basically?

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 MR. RAGANETTI: The purpose under
3 the law is to alleviate vacant, abandoned,
4 tax delinquent, tax foreclosed, that's the
5 core purpose of the land bank.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
7 Barbara, we will keep you informed, you know
8 that.

9 MS. EPSTEIN: I appreciate that.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Next,
11 what's your name?

12 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, a
13 Baldwin resident, and also since I've been
14 here for two and half hours, I want to take
15 a quick personal privilege to thank this
16 body for the recognition of Brigadier
17 General George A. Jones. He's a gentleman
18 that I have known all my life being born and
19 raised in Roosevelt, and third generation
20 veteran family. So I do want to appreciate
21 that. For many of you who already know, I
22 consistently advocate for our veterans at
23 home and abroad.

24 In speaking to the issue, just so
25 I don't get chastised for not being up here

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 for the issue at hand. Item Number 11, I
3 would have to concur with Legislator Bynoe
4 with regard to my concerns about the missed
5 opportunity, but I don't think that an
6 opportunity is missed if something is in the
7 development stages.

8 So there are areas that I think
9 we can bolster this process once we move
10 forward in terms of looking at, not only the
11 funding, but the distribution of the funding
12 and the resources.

13 We do have a significant
14 foreclosure situation crisis, if you will,
15 on Long Island and in Nassau County, and
16 many of those who are facing foreclosure are
17 our veterans. Quite a few of them somehow
18 expressed the same fears and emotions that
19 were expressed by those who were fighting so
20 valiantly earlier with regard to the FCA, in
21 terms of the homelessness, the high cost of
22 the living here, the domestic violence, the
23 substance abuse. These are all also
24 synonymous with our returning veterans.

25 Since Long Island has the largest

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 veteran population in the State of New York,
3 it would behoove us to look at those
4 resources and those grant opportunities to
5 help those who we continue to salute and
6 celebrate during the Fourth of July and
7 Veterans Day, and then somehow we seem to
8 forget the rest of the year in terms of
9 these types of opportunities.

10 Again, I would support this land
11 bank but I cautiously support this because
12 I'm just concerned in terms of who is going
13 to be involved with the delegation of the
14 resources and the information so that we can
15 protect the interests again of our veterans,
16 our student veterans, who cannot afford to
17 live here, but they get quality education
18 from our prestigious colleges and
19 universities.

20 This is the type of thing from a
21 workforce standpoint, the rehab of these
22 facilities, themselves could be job
23 opportunities for our veterans, and for our
24 young people, so I'm hoping that we can look
25 at this from a collective, a collaborative,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 and a comprehensive, as well as
3 compassionate scenario.

4 Again, I support the continued
5 funding of FCA having myself dealt with the
6 Department of Social Services. They are not
7 equipped to handle our children, and those
8 families, and definitely not those who are
9 in the specific needs and the
10 vulnerabilities, including our veterans.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
13 Ms. Mereday.

14 Is there any other public
15 comment? Mr. Boitel, are you still the
16 executive leader of the Rockville Centre
17 Democratic Club or former?

18 MR. BOITEL: Former.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

20 MR. BOITEL: First I would like
21 to agree with the comments of Legislators
22 Bynoe and Curran.

23 Second, I would like to disagree
24 with what seems to be the perspective of the
25 County Attorney's Office.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 It seems to me that this body has
3 full authority to set forth basic standards
4 that are going to be applicable to this
5 authority. For you to kind of give them a
6 blank check to write their own bylaws, as
7 they see fit, and later on to have to remedy
8 it sounds absurd to me.

9 You have an objective. You
10 should set forth what the basics are
11 relating to that objective, and that is the
12 limitation upon the authority that you're
13 granting by this resolution. To say
14 otherwise, really abdicates your
15 responsibility in this matter.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr.
17 Boitel, it's my understanding that they have
18 to follow state law.

19 MR. BOITEL: They also, since you
20 are adopting this resolution, you can add to
21 state law, you can do whatever you choose in
22 terms of setting forth the standards. It's
23 not for your appointees to determine the
24 standards by which they will be judged.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 very much, Mr. Boitel. All those in favor
3 of Item 11, the ordinance to create a land
4 bank in Nassau County, signify by saying
5 aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 Any opposed?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 The item passes unanimously.

10 Now we're going to 13, and
11 hopefully there is someone here to speak on
12 this item. It's a resolution authorizing
13 the County Attorney to compromise and settle
14 any and all claims between Lighthouse
15 Development Group, L.L.C., and the County of
16 Nassau pursuant to the County Law, the
17 County Government Law of Nassau County, and
18 the Nassau County Administrative Code.

19 Motion, please.

20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
23 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
24 Schaefer.

25 MS. LOCURTO: Good afternoon,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 legislators. This is a settlement, or a
3 compromise reached between the county and
4 the Lighthouse Group. We believe it will
5 resolve any outstanding issues and provide
6 revenue to the county.

7 To discuss the particulars, it
8 was worked in conjunction with our outside
9 counsel, helped the County Attorney's Office
10 to achieve that, and I have that outside
11 counsel here if there are particular
12 questions about it.

13 Because it is a compromise of a
14 settlement, if we're going to go into
15 further detail, I recommend executive
16 session but we are available to answer the
17 legislators' questions.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I believe,
19 Mr. LoCurto, we did go into executive
20 session on this issue, did we not?

21 MS. LOCURTO: I believe we did.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I think
23 there is a key point that I think that Lopes
24 & Pannone can address to the satisfaction of
25 this body. So I'm going to leave it up to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 you. You know what the key issue is, and we
3 will tell you if you don't know. I know
4 that this has been a concern and I'm, of
5 course, going to let the deputy bring it up,
6 put the onus on him. Go ahead. Tell them
7 what the key issue is and whether or not
8 it's been resolved.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The
10 question has been raised as to whether this
11 somehow constitutes an alienation of
12 parkland and it let's you render an opinion
13 on that, so maybe you would briefly want to
14 tell us what your opinion is with respect to
15 that issue.

16 MR. MEYER: Yes. Josh Meyer,
17 partner of Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West,
18 81 Main Street, White Plains, New York
19 10601.

20 And, just to clarify, we were in
21 executive session with the Rules Committee
22 on this, not with the Full Legislature, but
23 last week we were in with the Rules
24 Committee. So, if that's acceptable to you,
25 so we wouldn't discuss anything else in

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 connection with the settlement agreement
3 with this body unless we recommend that we
4 go into executive session.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: This issue
6 that needs to be addressed.

7 MR. MEYER: Okay, fine. Thank
8 you very much. So, with regard to -- in
9 connection with the settlement agreement,
10 there is a permit with the New York
11 Islanders on the construction of a practice
12 facility at Cantiague Park.

13 In connection with that, there is
14 alienation issues of parkland in connection
15 with what's called the public trust
16 doctrine. What that deals with is, the park
17 should be held in trust for public's use and
18 enjoyment.

19 What is interesting about that is
20 that it's not pursuant to statute, but
21 pursuant to Common Law. It's been developed
22 through case law over the last 100 years.
23 So, there is not one specific factor that's
24 involved. It's not elements, it's not
25 specific concerns you would address. There

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 is just a number of issues and a number of
3 factors that the courts consider when you
4 are dealing with the public trust doctrine.

5 So, there is really no set
6 formula with what the courts do. The courts
7 consider it in the most recent cases in
8 2014, the Union Square case, the court said
9 it's more than an art than a science. You
10 don't really look at -- like I said, there
11 is really no one factor that you look at.
12 They plot it on the spectrum. So, it's the
13 difference -- they start with a permissible
14 use of the facility that it's just really
15 the proper and permissible license that you
16 would utilize, versus the construction of a
17 building that has nothing to with the park.

18 So the courts rely on a number of
19 considerations relating to that. They look
20 at the transaction as a whole. They don't
21 look at one particular piece. They look at
22 the entire transaction and all the different
23 factors. Like I said, it's more of an art
24 than a science.

25 So, on this one, when you take a

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 look at the totality of the circumstances,
3 you are looking at the rink, you are looking
4 at the practice facility, and you're looking
5 at the pro shop. You look at the three as a
6 whole, not one individual piece of it.

7 So, some of the factors that the
8 courts look at is as to whether or not it's
9 alienation of parkland, whether it's a
10 license versus a lease. A lease is a
11 transfer of possessory interests into the
12 facility. That's not what we are doing
13 here. That is a license. This is just a
14 permit for the use and operation of the
15 facility by the Islanders.

16 They look at whether there is
17 non-exclusive use of the facility by the
18 entity that's utilizing the facility, the
19 skating rink, and the practice facility and
20 the pro shop, and whether there are park
21 purposes involved in the facility itself.

22 So, here, with the non-exclusive
23 use, we are talking about the entire
24 facility. So you're talking about, this is
25 really an expansion of the skating rink, the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 construction of this facility, 36,000 square
3 foot, practice facility, for the Islanders
4 is really just an expansion of the existing
5 facility.

6 So, when you're taking a look at
7 the exclusive use, you're really looking at
8 the overall facility, there is part of it
9 that there are offices of the Islanders in
10 there, but you are also looking at the fact
11 that the Islanders are using a few hours of
12 practice time a day, and the rest of the
13 skating rink is open to the public. The
14 turf field in the practice facility is open
15 to the public. There's storage in the
16 practice facility that the county can
17 utilize. There's open houses and tours that
18 the Islanders will be providing in
19 connection with the practice facility.

20 So, there are a number of things
21 that's not exclusive use when you are
22 looking at the whole facility. As I said,
23 when they look at whether it's a license or
24 lease, there is no possessory interest
25 that's transferred, and this license is

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 freely revocable at any time by the county
3 on 90 days notice.

4 So, it's not a long term interest
5 that the county is granting at that, when
6 the court specifically looks at that, and
7 it's a very important critical component
8 when the courts look at this that is freely
9 revocable by the county for any reason at
10 any time.

11 So, the courts would view the
12 following facts and circumstances of the
13 transaction and contemplate it when they are
14 looking at something such as this. This is
15 what they look at, like I said, when it's
16 more art than science, and they look at all
17 these factors and try to plot them on the
18 spectrum of where something like this would
19 fall.

20 So, it's a small parcel that the
21 county is looking at. It's less than --
22 it's approximately one acre. Cantiague Park
23 is 127 acres, so it's less than one percent.
24 It's approximately 6 tenths of a percent of
25 an acre that is actually being taken up here

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 between the facility itself and the parking
3 lot associated with it.

4 There has been a historic use of
5 the facility used as a skating rink. So
6 this is a supported accessory use of it with
7 this practice facility that's connected to
8 it.

9 It's a short term license. Many
10 of the licenses that the county actually
11 enters into that you have seen in the past
12 have been 20 or 30 years. This is a ten
13 year license. It's ten years with two five
14 year renewals, at the mutual agreement of
15 the parties. So right now it's a ten year
16 agreement.

17 The Islanders actually have the
18 ability to get out of the license after the
19 third year. If they don't at that time,
20 then they are in for the remainder of the
21 seven years.

22 There is use of private funds in
23 this facility, \$5.1 million, 4.5 in
24 connection with the settle agreement plus
25 \$600,000 that the Islanders are also

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 providing to construct this facility in
3 addition to the furniture, fixtures, and
4 equipment that the Islanders will be paying
5 for in the construction of the facility.

6 Cantiague Park is beautiful,
7 obviously, but in this particular instance
8 and this particular area of the park, it's
9 delapidated and underutilized. There's a
10 very small playground there right now that,
11 when you do go out there, there's other
12 playgrounds that are very well used. In
13 this area right there, this one is not very
14 well used at all. The county would replace
15 over that particular playground and the
16 parking lot would be adjacent to that. But
17 it's a very delapidated and underutilized
18 area of the park right there.

19 When the courts look at this, in
20 general, and they address these issues, and
21 when you're taking a look at it, you want
22 there to be a park purpose associated with
23 the facility itself. It's very important to
24 the courts.

25 What you look at is whether or

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 not a project or a transaction like this
3 facilitates the use and enjoyment of the
4 park that's right there. Clearly, you are
5 going to have that here, where you're going
6 to be -- part of this is the expansion of
7 the existing skating rink that you have
8 there.

9 Right now it's not NHL standards
10 and specifications. So it's approximately
11 15 feet shorter than what the NHL requires.
12 Many leagues and tournaments don't come to
13 this facility because it doesn't meet NHL
14 standards.

15 So now you're going to be
16 bringing that many more people in to this
17 facility. There is a lot of need and desire
18 to come to a facility like this because of
19 that.

20 So, because the county is
21 expanding it in connection in connection
22 with the construction of this facility, you
23 will see a lot more revenue and a lot more
24 people come to use and enjoy this facility.
25 This will improve the recreational offerings

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 that will be at the facility.

3 As I said, there is shared use of
4 the turf field when the Islanders are not
5 using it and the county will have a need for
6 that. If for the summer programs in the
7 summer, if it's raining or poor weather,
8 they can be brought in there if there's a
9 problem where they can't use the outside
10 field, there will be shared use of the turf
11 field, which is approximately 3,500 square
12 feet, two stories, it's not an eight foot
13 above it, it's open to the roof. So it will
14 be utilized for any county purpose, but for
15 summer programs or for any of the county
16 programs that are run.

17 This allows the county to
18 maintain the connection with the Islanders.
19 It's a significant consideration. To
20 continue to offer the residents the
21 connection to professional sports franchise
22 at the facility. The Islanders are coming
23 here to this facility, for their practice
24 facility, for this purpose, and it maintains
25 that connection to the Islanders.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 We will settling the dispute as
3 we indicated. The Islanders will provide
4 the additional \$600,000 towards the
5 facility. There will be significant revenue
6 to the county because, in addition to the
7 leagues and the tournaments that will be
8 coming to this facility, you also have the
9 advertising and sponsorship opportunities
10 that the Islanders will be bringing here.
11 The county will get a share of that revenue.

12 Right in the license agreement,
13 you have the two public scrimmages, the
14 three autograph signings, and the five
15 public practices at the facility. So you
16 will be drawing a lot of traffic and a lot
17 of foot traffic and a lot of additional
18 people will be coming to the facilities, and
19 that adds to that use and enjoyment of a
20 public park.

21 You have the tours that will be
22 frequently held there for the public for
23 this practice facility and the rink. You
24 have the open houses and special events as I
25 said which will be conducted by the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Islanders. You will have increased safety
3 and security at the facility especially at
4 night because you are going to have that
5 much more traffic and the additional
6 lighting that's going to be there in the
7 park. That's just going to add to that,
8 where it was underutilized before, there
9 might not have been people in that area, now
10 you will have additional people there.

11 The county is getting a building
12 with this private financing \$5.1 million,
13 but it's a building that's a 40 to 50 year
14 useful life. And this is a 10 year
15 agreement, and the Islanders could leave
16 after three. So they are getting a
17 building, \$5.1 million, that could last 40
18 or 50 years for only a ten year agreement.
19 That's the long answer, I guess, to your
20 question about the alienation.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you,
22 Josh, you covered it.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
24 comment? Legislator Jacobs.

25 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I have two

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 comments, one of them I will ask directly to
3 you; the other one, I don't know if you can
4 answer it, but perhaps Ms. LoCurto can.

5 My first question would be this,
6 I guess the office building itself is what
7 gives everybody the big question mark, and I
8 know you have explained it very well about
9 intrusion into parkland and alienation of
10 parkland, but underneath is where the turf
11 field is going to be, correct?

12 MR. MEYER: On the first floor.

13 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: On the first
14 floor of it. Is that what gives you a sense
15 of comfort that can go on parkland, the turf
16 field, does that give that sense of comfort?

17 MR. MEYER: Like I said, it's not
18 one factor in particular, I would say that's
19 helpful, but it's the -- what you would be
20 looking at, because it's the practice
21 facility, and what's being constructed is
22 really an expansion of the existing
23 facility.

24 When you look at it as a whole,
25 it's just that facility that you're looking

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 at, that's one thing, and there's not the
3 exclusive use of it. You have the turf
4 field, you have storage, you have the public
5 coming in there, the open houses and tours,
6 the ability to use it. That's one factor
7 and then you combine it with the skating
8 rink, and the non-exclusive use of the
9 skating rink and both combined, because it
10 is one facility at that point, that's what
11 really gives the comfort on the alienation
12 issue.

13 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I want to
14 read something to you. I have three things.
15 This is the second one for you. On page
16 seven of your report it says,
17 "significantly, the public will continue to
18 have use of the rink for the vast majority
19 of the time as the New York Islander
20 practices are typically limited to weekday
21 mornings when the rink is otherwise
22 unoccupied." Now, I know that's all true,
23 because I know that from what they do at the
24 ice rink on Underhill Boulevard.

25 But, "typically" is not a very

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 solid statement within an item talking about
3 use, typically, or are they going to be
4 restricted to not intruding on the public
5 use as far as how it's used now, which is
6 usually afternoon, I would say, to the
7 evening.

8 MR. MEYER: Right. So in the
9 license agreement, there's peak and non-peak
10 hours that they could use the facility, the
11 difference is \$500 or \$300 depending on the
12 time. They're not restricted, there's a
13 calendar that they establish ahead of time
14 in connection with that, and there are
15 representatives here from the New York
16 Islanders if you want them to speak to any
17 of those questions, but it would be 9:00 to
18 12:00 if we have a sample calendar from
19 them, and, if you take a look at their
20 sample calendar, what they've done in all of
21 the other years, it's the 9:00 to 12:00.

22 Like I said, that's why we have
23 the peak and non-peak times, but, generally
24 speaking, they use the mornings and that's
25 the time that the facility is underutilized.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: It's
3 important that that's on the record because
4 that bothered me with that. I can tell you
5 I do agree with you in the particular place
6 it's going. It is an underutilized place in
7 the park. It's sort of off the beaten
8 track.

9 But now I have to ask you a
10 question that I think you may refer to
11 someone from the county.

12 So I do homework, and this is
13 like right near my area that I represent. I
14 went and took pictures over the weekend.
15 And there is construction going on there
16 already. I'm wondering if you know, or if
17 anyone here from the county knows what's
18 going on?

19 It's hard to tell. I have to be
20 honest in my pictures, although it has signs
21 up, building for a better Nassau County, the
22 bottom line is there is that yellow sheet
23 that's used with Tyvek on it or something.
24 So something is happening there and I
25 couldn't quite figure out what.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 MR. SCHNEIDER: Brian Schneider
3 from Public Works. Actually there's a few
4 things going on at Cantiague. Number one,
5 we have our facility guys working on the
6 driving range. The exterior looked kind of
7 ratty.

8 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: This was
9 right at the rink though.

10 MR. SCHNEIDER: But then there is
11 also a couple of other things that have been
12 approved by the leg and have been ongoing.
13 I want to take you through the entire park.

14 So, besides the work going on at
15 the driving range, you have the batting cage
16 and the playground which is going out in
17 front of the skating rink. So that's the
18 big lawn area that's in front of the skating
19 rink. That's been ongoing for about three
20 months. That's going to wrap up by the end
21 of this month. So there's a nine station
22 batting cage, and there's also a new
23 playground which is going right in front of
24 the skating rink.

25 There is also an ADA lobby

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 project being worked right on and that's
3 also going to be wrapping up in probably the
4 next two to three weeks. That's been on the
5 books and that's been designed in-house and
6 that's something that's been on the books
7 for a couple of years. We had to wait for
8 the funding to actually get in place, but
9 that's something that, again, was approved
10 by the legislature and it's ongoing and
11 should be wrapping up very very shortly.

12 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Now that you
13 said it, it makes sense that it would be the
14 ADA lobby, but where the playground is and
15 batting cage, that would be on the other
16 side of the roadway though, right?

17 MR. SCHNEIDER: Correct.

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You would see
19 it from the rink but the roadway would come
20 before it and then it would be --

21 MR. SCHNEIDER: South of the
22 rink.

23 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: South of the
24 rink, right.

25 MR. SCHNEIDER: Then there's also

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 the skating component which was discussed as
3 part of this testimony which also went to
4 the leg several weeks ago, that's the
5 Everything Ice expansion of the rink and
6 installing the mat system. That's ongoing
7 now.

8 So, everything is kind of all
9 coming together but it does not include any
10 of the expansion items that's being
11 considered now.

12 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Thank you
13 very much for that.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
15 Brian. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
17 don't know if it would be more proper for
18 the County Attorney's Office to answer this.
19 Is Lisa here?

20 In your opinion, Lisa, do you
21 feel that there is anything in the County's
22 Charter or bylaws that would prohibit us
23 from building offices for different entity
24 on parkland?

25 MS. LOCURTO: I think in

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 connection with this particular project, I
3 think it is still consistent with furthering
4 a park purpose which is the expansion of the
5 facility and providing specifically the
6 skating rink and all the components around
7 it.

8 So, I think if it was stand
9 alone, you're just constructing office space
10 but it's not -- it's looked at, as Josh
11 testified, the totality of what is trying to
12 be achieved and what is actually being built
13 and whether or not it fulfills or furthers
14 the park purpose.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So,
16 in your opinion, you feel comfortable with
17 the county agreeing to this situation?

18 MS. LOCURTO: Yes, we concur with
19 the legal analysis. We did our own internal
20 analysis, but you always want to consult
21 with an outside consultant and counsel and
22 we agree. We take the use of the county
23 parks very seriously, and we always want to
24 assure that the doctrine of public use is
25 adhered to. So, yes, we feel comfortable.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
3 I just have one more quick question? I
4 understand that this is part of an agreement
5 and a lot of the funds are going towards
6 that. Is there any type of future specific
7 rent for the offices separately, or is there
8 any type of agreement, how is that going to
9 be handled?

10 MS. LOCURTO: I'll let Josh
11 answer it but, I think my understanding is,
12 there will be ongoing rent provided pursuant
13 to the lease agreement.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Per
15 the office specifically?

16 MR. SCHNEIDER: Right. Yes. For
17 the utilization and the use of the space in
18 the practice facility, yes. I can run
19 through the numbers for you.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.
21 But it's safe to say that it's fair market
22 value?

23 MR. MEYER: Yes, it's consistent
24 with fair market value.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 should the Islanders for some reason decide
3 not to continue in this facility, is there
4 any provision for what type of future
5 tenants or use we would have?

6 MS. LOCURTO: The building comes
7 back to the county and the county would
8 decide how to best use the facility and what
9 other programs we could utilize within that
10 building.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
14 Ford.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: Josh, I just
16 have a question for you. On the ice rink, I
17 don't know if the hours have been set, but
18 do you know basically what hours they're
19 thinking of, the operation for the newly
20 renovated ice rink? I might have missed the
21 testimony.

22 MR. MEYER: For the use that the
23 Islanders would actually use --

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: No. For the
25 general public. Like, will the ice rink be

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 open? I know for a fact, and I'm sure Judy
3 probably experiences it is as well, but even
4 by me we have an ice arena, and there's such
5 competition for ice time amongst a lot of
6 the leagues and whatever that many times my
7 son is out practicing or playing at 12
8 o'clock at night. God bless them all.

9 So, I just want to know, with
10 this ice, because it is going to be
11 regulation size, everybody will be attracted
12 to it, so I just want to know, do you
13 anticipate, do you have any idea how late
14 this place will stay open? Will they go by
15 the need, if they need to be open till 12
16 o'clock at night, 2 o'clock in the morning?

17 MR. MEYER: Just to clarify, the
18 county will be in complete control of the
19 operation of the skating facility. So it
20 will be up to the county and it will be as
21 demand requires.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: That's all I
23 have, thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have two
25 other people, Judy. Legislator Birnbaum and

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Legislator Curran.

3 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I heard you
4 mention that the first floor of the building
5 would be a turf field.

6 MR. MEYER: 3,500 square feet of
7 the first floor would be a turf field,
8 correct.

9 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: What would
10 that be suitable for, what sport?

11 MR. MEYER: It would just be,
12 like I said, artificial turf, it's a fairly
13 sizeable space, it would just be a flat
14 surface for indoor training of anything.
15 You could have a small soccer game, you can
16 have practices or stretching or anything
17 else like that for either kids programs or
18 summer programs or any use along those
19 lines. Throwing the ball, anything
20 associated with that.

21 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: That would
22 be county run?

23 MR. MEYER: And the county has
24 the ability to utilize that turf field.

25 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I also have

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 concerns about the material that we use,
3 whether it's environmentally sound, because
4 there is a lot of concerns right now about
5 the artificial turf that's been used.

6 MR. MEYER: Sure. We can discuss
7 that with the Department of Public Works
8 because the county is controlling all the
9 bidding associated with the materials and
10 the construction of the facility.

11 MS. LOCURTO: Plus any design of
12 the building and the construction associated
13 will be reviewed and ayed or nayed by the
14 Department of Public works.

15 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
17 Curran.

18 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you.
19 So is the argument that it's a license as
20 opposed to a lease, that's the thing that
21 makes it non alienation of parkland; is that
22 correct?

23 MR. MEYER: As I indicated, it's
24 one of the factors I would say. It's just
25 one. When you take a look at the court

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 cases, that's one that they will look at and
3 if you're doing a lease, generally speaking,
4 a lease of parkland for non-park purposes,
5 then that would be considered alienation.

6 But, if you are looking at the
7 license and the ability to revoke at any
8 time, the courts consider it a strong
9 indication that it is a license and that it
10 is not alienation. And it still needs for
11 park purposes generally, but when they take
12 a look at it and you can revoke on the 90
13 days, as we have here, they will consider
14 that a freely revocable license.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
16 DeRiggi-Whitton.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
18 understand that you're saying that we have
19 the right to revoke at will, but what
20 happens at that point as far as financially,
21 and, Lisa, if you don't mind answering, it's
22 not as easy as that?

23 MS. LOCURTO: If the county
24 elected, or took the option of revoking the
25 license, it's written in that we have to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 give 90 day notice. So whatever accounting
3 would be due and owed up until that point in
4 time. I guess I'm not quite sure I
5 understand your question.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: If
7 you look at that item, there is a mention
8 that the county must reimburse the Islanders
9 if we do revoke at will for a fee of
10 \$2,225,000. And I assume that's going to be
11 amortized by how long they are in the
12 facility prior to us revoking.

13 Plus there is a \$600,000 fee that
14 we would also have to reimburse the
15 Islanders. Again, we are all hoping it
16 works but if it didn't work, to say that we
17 have a 90 day ability to cancel this
18 agreement doesn't come without a cost.
19 There is a substantial cost to the county.
20 Are you aware of that, Lisa?

21 MS. LOCURTO: Yes.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So,
23 at this point, if we start, again, how do
24 you feel that would affect the alienation
25 issue, the fact that -- with these penalties

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 and all?

3 MS. LOCURTO: I think the court
4 would still have to look at the totality of
5 how it's being used. There have been
6 similar agreements between public private
7 partnerships in furthering the use of the
8 park facility to make it more available to
9 its residents and to approve it.

10 There is a cost associated with
11 everything. But I don't think that alone
12 that one minor provision would offset or in
13 any way destroy the totality of how the park
14 is being used for the furtherance in
15 benefitting the residents.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: This
17 is going to be completely hypothetical
18 because I have respect, and, honestly, I
19 like the idea that we're keeping a portion
20 of the Islanders on the Island means a lot
21 to a lot of us, especially my neighbor here
22 Judy.

23 Let's say our tenant, the person
24 occupying the building, the company
25 occupying this building, for instance,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 started to practice all day long, and had a
3 few other issues that we felt were really
4 not in line with what the agreement was.

5 Now, before we can say, guess
6 what, we no longer want you in our building,
7 you have to leave, we have to now pay \$2
8 million plus. If we revoke this contract at
9 will, that's what that would mean.

10 MR. MEYER: Right, so that is one
11 instance they probably could not use under
12 that scenario, that hypothetical, it would
13 be difficult. The Islanders would still
14 have to act within the terms if the
15 agreement; if not, that would be a breach on
16 their part and we would not pay that amount
17 that you're speaking about, if it was a
18 breach. You wouldn't have the payment of
19 the one half of the \$4.5 million plus the
20 \$600,000. So that's one issue.

21 If it's something that we did
22 want and felt rose to the level, that we did
23 not want to, so that penalty is in there,
24 but it would be something that the county
25 would have to contemplate in the business

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 deal and determine whether or not that's in
3 their best interests. There is a payment
4 penalty clearly spelled out in the
5 agreement.

6 The courts wouldn't look at that.
7 There are plenty of cases out there that
8 deal with the repayment upon a termination,
9 so it's not as if it would be dispositive of
10 the alienation issue that you're speaking
11 to, but it would be something that the
12 county would be looking at in terms of the
13 business deal and whether or not they would
14 seek to terminate at that time.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
16 the 90 day notice sounds really nice and
17 easy, but there's really a lot more involved
18 than just a 90 day notice?

19 MR. MEYER: That's correct. It
20 doesn't change the definition of whether
21 it's a license or not, I would say, but it's
22 whether or not -- it is one factor that the
23 courts would take a look at when determining
24 whether there is a license or a lease. But
25 there are cases out there where it does

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 discuss payment provisions in association
3 with termination.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So,
5 just to get it on record one more time, in
6 your opinion, this is still a license, not a
7 lease, even though there is a significant
8 sum attached?

9 MR. MEYER: Yes. That's correct.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have a
11 question now, Josh. What would precipitate
12 a breach of the contract so that the county
13 would be held self harmless? In other
14 words, there must be something built into
15 the contract that really would cause the
16 county to revoke the license.

17 MR. MEYER: On a breach, it would
18 be wide open along those lines. It could be
19 anything associated with it; if they weren't
20 making their payments on the rent or
21 something along those lines, or they weren't
22 meeting the minimum requirements, \$200,000
23 in the first year, if they didn't make those
24 payment, timely make their payments. That
25 would be a very simple one, we would

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 terminate them and we wouldn't be making
3 that payment.

4 But there could be many more
5 considerations where the county could
6 terminate them for breach, then if we just
7 want to, for lack of a better term,
8 convenience terminate them, and make the
9 payment.

10 But, as I said, the county, it
11 would have to be in their best interest and
12 further benefit to end up as the legislator
13 indicated, to make that payment of \$2.25
14 million plus the \$600,000.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you,
16 Presiding Officer. Good afternoon. Just
17 real quickly. Is the state Parks Department
18 reviewing this application?

19 MR. MEYER: Not to my knowledge.
20 It's not required when you are addressing an
21 alienation of parkland issue. It's not
22 required to have the parks department look
23 at it from what I can see in the newspapers
24 been referred there. But there is no
25 requirement that the attorney general or

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 parks department or anyone else address any
3 issues in connection with alienation of
4 parkland.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
7 Jacobs.

8 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Ms. LoCurto,
9 just a very quick thing. On the hills
10 before, when Legislator Ford was asking
11 questions, I know this is not surrounded by
12 homes right there, but, right across, on
13 Cantiague Road is a residential community.
14 So I think and I know from having people in
15 my family that play hockey, they do play at
16 crazy hours. Even the Islanders do, I
17 understand that, but so do regular people
18 that enjoy it and young people.

19 I think it's important when the
20 parking lot is built, I'm sure for some
21 security at night, that there would be a
22 downward pointing of lighting and not
23 outward, because there are areas, even
24 though that park use in that area is under
25 utilized, there are private homes there that

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 I'm sure would not be happy with it looking
3 like a lit-up stadium. So I just that you
4 should have that somewhere in there.

5 MS. LOCURTO: Absolutely. Since
6 the plans of construction, as I have stated
7 before, is going to be vetted by the
8 Department of Public Works, that all will be
9 taken into consideration. It is important
10 to note that all, as Josh did say, that the
11 scheduling is completely in the control of
12 the county. That's important to know. Even
13 if we schedule it at midnight, we are part
14 of it. We can be responsive to it.

15 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Living near
16 an office park I know what it means when
17 lighting is done properly and when it's not
18 done properly. It's easy.

19 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
21 Rhoads.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Ms. LoCurto,
23 I just wanted to confirm my understanding
24 which is both the Planning Commission and
25 the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 have been consulted and have both approved
3 of the underlying concept, correct?

4 MS. LOCURTO: Yes.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Is there
7 any public comment on this item? John
8 Budnick.

9 MR. BUDNICK: First of all, some
10 people have expressed, indicated distress
11 that the Hicksville community wasn't
12 consulted. Most of them have indicated that
13 this shouldn't be a bar to this moving
14 forward. They have also asked that there be
15 a reaffirmation that there are going to be
16 three new, not just one, playground areas.
17 That's very necessary, because Nassau County
18 is running a parks summer program in there
19 and indeed they have been utilizing the area
20 that's going to be condemned. But if there
21 are going to be three other areas created in
22 the park, that's great.

23 Second, the building itself and
24 the entire concept of park alienation isn't
25 dependent upon it being a license although

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 it does encompass the idea that a grant of
3 the property, particularly a long term lease
4 of it, is perceived as being not in the
5 public interest.

6 For example, in Judge Fineman's
7 decisions, in the Sands Point case, and the
8 affirmances by the Appellate Division, which
9 happened about three years ago, the entire
10 case turned on the question of, was it a
11 parks use or a non parks use?

12 I believe the office building,
13 ultimately, if it is run properly, open to
14 the public, and had things like perhaps all
15 the sides of the part of the building that's
16 open to the public, things like an Islander,
17 Nassau County hall of fame, things like
18 that, can be viewed as an attraction to the
19 park even though on the second floor there
20 are offices. It depends on how the
21 Islanders structure that.

22 There's also another problem here
23 in terms of the security of the place.
24 There was a very bad incident about ten days
25 ago where a woman walking in the park was

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 mugged at 5 o'clock in the morning. That's
3 going to have to be addressed by everybody.

4 I believe that if this is
5 properly done and properly overseen by not
6 just the parks department, by the parks
7 department as well as DPW, it can be certain
8 that it could be a great great advantage to
9 the Hicksville community and to Nassau
10 County as a whole. But it has to be looked
11 at by those who are very familiar with the
12 issue of parks alienation.

13 Thank you very much for letting
14 me -- and I must tell you, I used to work
15 there from 1971 to 1974 as I was working my
16 way through Hofstra Law School. I was a
17 park ranger there. I only got shot at once
18 there. And I also had a couple of other
19 people attack me. One of the times I was
20 able to tell them they are all under arrest
21 and started reading them their Miranda
22 rights and they all got so crazy, they all
23 ran away.

24 The problem is, there aren't
25 enough people there to properly control all

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 the other facilities there. This is a very,
3 very busy park.

4 CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes
5 have expired, Mr. Budnick.

6 MR. BUDNICK: So I just ask that
7 you maintain very close contact with the
8 Islanders and the county parks department.
9 I think Mr. Walker is here who also has
10 experience in parks to help make sure that
11 this works out successfully for everybody.
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
14 Mr. Budnick. Let's vote on the item which
15 is Item 13, all those in favor signify by
16 saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Any opposed?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 The item passes unanimously.

21 We have one more item on the
22 non-consent calendar which is Item 15, a
23 resolution authorizing the county to file an
24 application for federal assistance with the
25 United States Department of Housing and

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Urban Development.

3 Motion, please.

4 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
7 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
8 Kopel.

9 MR. SARCONI: Good afternoon.
10 John Sarcone, Department of Housing.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Welcome,
12 John.

13 MR. SARCONI: The item in front
14 of you is our five year consolidated plan as
15 well as our annual action plan. It entails
16 three grants that we administer at the
17 Department of Housing.

18 The first will be the Community
19 Development Block Grant Program, the second
20 is the Home Investment Partnership Program,
21 and the third is the Emergency Solutions
22 Grant. All three are 100 percent federally
23 funded.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any
25 questions of Mr. Sarcone? Legislator Ford.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR FORD: How much has it
3 been reduced this year from last year?

4 MR. SARCONE: The CDBG program
5 was reduced close to one percent, and
6 overall in a five year period, it went from
7 19 million to a little over 12 million
8 currently.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: With the
10 decrease in that, have you seen an increase
11 in any of the other two items?

12 MR. SARCONE: Yes, the Emergency
13 Solutions Grant, we have seen steadily that
14 grant increasing year over year.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: What is the
16 Emergency Solutions Grant?

17 MR. SARCONE: The Emergency
18 Solutions Grant, formerly known as the
19 Emergency Shelter Grant.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. And you
21 have at the housing, the rental assistance,
22 that's not Section 8, is that something
23 else?

24 MR. SARCONE: No, that would fall
25 under the Emergency Solutions Grant. That's

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 temporary, not a permanent subsidy.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: So Section 8
4 falls under the emergency solutions?

5 MR. SARCONE: No. The Section 8
6 program is a voucher program. Once you are
7 on the program, if you abide by the rules,
8 you are on it for perpetuity. The Emergency
9 Solutions Grant is only for a short period
10 of time.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: Do you know
12 offhand how many Section 8 vouchers you
13 administer in the county?

14 MR. SARCONE: Yes, county-wide,
15 it's 2,800.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: How many people
17 are on the list waiting?

18 MR. SARCONE: A little in excess
19 of 6,000 and that could include family
20 compositions of four or five.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: We still
22 haven't done any work from the federal
23 government like in their willingness to
24 increase the Section 8 voucher program?

25 MR. SARCONE: The trend is not

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 likely.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: But then you
4 can also help with the building of new
5 affordable housing, is that what it is?

6 MR. SARCONE: Yes. We do
7 administer monies to actually build low
8 income housing through our home investment
9 grant.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
11 much.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
13 questions or comments? Legislator Solages.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: We
15 understand that you reach out to over 100
16 agencies serving the county for your citizen
17 participation plan?

18 MR. SARCONE: That's correct.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is there a
20 process in place that would give community
21 residents, especially in low and moderate
22 income areas, an opportunity to weigh in on
23 priorities or urgent needs specifically in
24 their neighborhood for the CDBG funding?

25 MR. SARCONE: Yes. Citizens can

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 have actually two or three goes of
3 participating in our plan. Once we announce
4 the NOF, our local consortium, meaning local
5 governments, hold public hearings and
6 citizens can participate in crafting that
7 local government's plan.

8 We also, as a county, provide
9 public hearings and whatever comments that
10 are made to us, we include that in our
11 submission to HUD.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Does that
13 entail just the only opportunity for them to
14 weigh in?

15 MR. SARCONI: We accept
16 recommendations or suggestions all year
17 round.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What
19 outreach do you do besides newspaper
20 notices?

21 MR. SARCONI: We also send
22 notices to this body, to the minority and
23 majority, and that's another form of
24 solicitation.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: If the CDBG

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 funding is obtained through the number of
3 low income person households within the
4 census tracks, what is the criteria for
5 consortium numbers in the high income areas
6 to receive this type of funding?

7 MR. SARCONE: That's a good
8 question. That is currently being drafted
9 and HUD just came out with their final rule
10 on affirmative fair housing, so that's being
11 addressed and guidance should be coming down
12 shortly to the local administrators.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What does
14 that specifically entail?

15 MR. SARCONE: It's a national
16 objective by HUD to provide housing
17 opportunities in high income areas for low
18 to moderate individuals.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: An example
20 of a couple of those areas in Nassau County,
21 what would those areas be?

22 MR. SARCONE: It's based on
23 census track and income in those areas. It
24 could be areas on the north shore or high
25 income areas, Middle Island. It just varies

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 throughout Nassau County.

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is it
4 housing alone or other projects?

5 MR. SARCONE: Well, just take,
6 for example, our Home Investment Down
7 Payment Assistance Program. Once a family
8 or an individual qualifies for a housing
9 down payment assistance, they can then shop
10 throughout the county for a house that fits
11 their need. It's not restrictive.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
13 very much.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
15 comments? Legislator Bynoe.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good
17 afternoon, John.

18 MR. SARCONE: Good afternoon.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I just have
20 one question regarding the consolidated plan
21 and the agency plan.

22 MR. SARCONE: Yes.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So the public
24 comment period is scheduled for the 15th.

25 MR. SARCONE: That's correct.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And we don't
3 expect any of those comments might shape the
4 plan that you put forward in that you are
5 asking this body to approve the plan in
6 advance of hearings from the public comment?

7 MR. SARCONE: Yes. Well, it
8 comes down to scheduling. If this body
9 would like to convene a special meeting
10 after the time period, I will come in front
11 of you with any comments that have taken
12 place after this legislative body and you
13 can --

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Well, why
15 wouldn't you -- we set our schedule for our
16 meetings well in advance. Why wouldn't you
17 have had the public comment portion of it in
18 advance of our legislative meeting so you
19 could come to us with all the information
20 intact? If there is no opportunity to
21 change the plan, then why have the public
22 comment period at all?

23 MR. SARCONE: Well, for the
24 record, we are not talking about weeks, we
25 are talking about three days.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It's still
3 after.

4 MR. SARCONE: I understand, but
5 it is a question of scheduling. If the
6 majority/minority would like to call a
7 special hearing of the legislature to
8 address this issue after the commentary --

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That's not the
10 question I asked you. The question I asked
11 you, I get that we can call a special
12 meeting.

13 MR. SARCONE: Okay.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That point is
15 not lost on me. My question to you is that,
16 why have a public comment portion for these
17 plans if in fact you are not expecting that
18 any of the comments may shape your decision
19 as to how you are moving forward in the
20 funding? Because today we are voting on the
21 plan, but then people will come and speak to
22 no avail, it will be a moot point on the
23 15th. I don't understand the process.

24 MR. SARCONE: Do you have a
25 specific issue that you would like to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 address now?

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The question
4 that I'm asking is, John, why would we have
5 the public comment portion after the
6 approval of the plan? The public comment
7 portion is supposed to be in advance of your
8 submission of your plan to us so you have
9 taken those comments into consideration when
10 you create the plan.

11 MR. SARCONI: I understand. The
12 legislative minority has sent me a list of
13 questions, and we answered every single one
14 of them, every question, in detail.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: John, you're
16 not answering my question.

17 MR. SARCONI: I understand what
18 you're saying. We give sufficient time for
19 every one to submit their comments. If you
20 are talking about three days --

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm talking
22 about the public having an ability to have a
23 real voice in the process. Their voice is
24 on the 15th after we voted on the plan.
25 That's what I'm talking about.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 MR. SARCONE: Do you know of a
3 specific instance that you would like to
4 address now, whether it be you, or --

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I couldn't
6 possibly know the comments of the entire
7 public for Nassau County. I really couldn't
8 have that answer for you. But my question
9 is, why are we doing it after? They really
10 have no voice then.

11 MR. SARCONE: No. This has been
12 the process for decades.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The public
14 comment should come before we vote on a plan
15 if their voices are really to be heard and
16 they're supposed to play a role in the
17 process.

18 MR. SARCONE: I understand and
19 respect what you are saying. We need to
20 have this plan in no later than 45 days to
21 HUD. It is basic timing. If three days is
22 going to change the sphere of this plan --

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It could. It
24 could very well. I mean, somebody could
25 come in and have something significant to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 add to the process but it will come three
3 days after we have approved the plan. I
4 don't think that's appropriate. If we are
5 really going to have the community feel as
6 if they are playing a role in government,
7 the public comment portion should come
8 before this body is given the plan to vote
9 on. I don't think that's appropriate.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
11 Ford wants to pick up on that.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: With respect to
13 Legislator Bynoe, John, during the year, and
14 I can understand the concern, because there
15 are issues that come up with community
16 development block monies, but many of the
17 residents throughout the county have an
18 opportunity to go to their local
19 municipalities when the hearings because I
20 know that, whether or not it's in the Town
21 of Hempstead, or the City of Long Beach,
22 which are two jurisdictions that do receive
23 this funding, they normally hold public
24 hearings in regard to this allocation of
25 funds and they usually are required to hold

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 two hearings for public participation and
3 input on the community development block
4 grant money, correct?

5 MR. SARCONE: Yes.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: And I know that
7 this is not the only meeting I guess you're
8 going to have in a couple of days on this.
9 You've had meetings on this?

10 MR. SARCONE: To date, we have
11 had three public hearings.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. So, I
13 know that we always have concerns because of
14 whether or not if the money has been
15 allocated, and I know this is prior to your
16 being here, that this has always been an
17 issue. Sometimes whether or not, with the
18 local, like the Town of Hempstead, or the
19 City of Long Beach, the Town of North
20 Hempstead, whether or not we feel as if the
21 monies are being allocated properly
22 throughout the communities.

23 But, once we have information
24 given to us, the plan is given to us, say by
25 the City of Long Beach, use them for an

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 example. Once they, say they're going to
3 get \$1 million, and they have public
4 hearings with the input, and they're giving
5 us information as to how it should be
6 allocated, whether or not through community
7 groups, and I know there are federal
8 regulations, what percentage of the monies
9 can be given to programs, what has to be
10 spent here. They have a certain percentage
11 that goes for administration costs, because
12 they do normally hire someone to do the
13 program.

14 Once that's given to us, say, by
15 the city, what leeway do we have then, even
16 if residents do come and speak to us now, to
17 say, well, I'm not happy about it, what
18 recourse do we have then, the ability to
19 change any of that?

20 MR. SARCONI: To answer your
21 question, we have taken recommendations in
22 the past, and that would be in consultation
23 with the administration as well as the
24 select body of people, in-housing that
25 select and oversee the selection process,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 but we have accommodated requests from
3 legislators, city council people.

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Because I know,
5 even last year, when the city of Long Beach
6 was reduced because of noncompliance, that I
7 requested to have an increase but the city
8 did not partner with me on getting the
9 increase. So I couldn't force them to take
10 the money; is that correct?

11 MR. SARCONI: That is correct.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: I think that,
13 for me, this particular program has always
14 been of interest to me and, if I have to
15 say, it's probably one of the reasons that I
16 became a legislator because we saw
17 inequities way back when, because this
18 program has been in existence for 40 years
19 and we're always following to see where the
20 money is spent.

21 I can't always say that I 100
22 percent agree with what has been done in the
23 past, but we always keep trying. That's why
24 I normally try to make, even on the local
25 level, to go to the meetings that they have

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 so they can get public input to watch how
3 the local governments are spending the money
4 and we're there spending it and trying to
5 get public participation as well to get
6 involved because they need to hear from the
7 voices of the people who live in the cities
8 and the towns and the villages to make sure
9 that whatever money we are getting from the
10 federal government is spent properly.

11 I know, for me, I would like to
12 see more allocated, and I know trying to
13 work with you to find affordable housing.
14 Because I would love to see -- I agree with
15 Legislator Bynoe, that we really need to
16 have a lot more housing for many of our
17 residents because too many of them are
18 living on couches of relatives and
19 especially for our veterans as well. There
20 are two groups that desperately need the
21 housing. So I thank you very much.

22 But my last question would be,
23 with the City of Long Beach, they are still
24 down at the lower level.

25 MR. SARCONI: Yes. We kept them

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 at level funding this year.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry,
4 Presiding Officer. I have a problem with
5 the process. It is what it is at this
6 point, but I think it's inappropriate for
7 this body to be voting on a plan when the
8 public hasn't had the ability to have their
9 comments registered at this point.

10 We are required, there is a
11 reason why the federal government has
12 required these public comment sessions and I
13 think it inappropriate that we are cutting
14 the community out of having that
15 opportunity. Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy
17 Presiding Officer Nicolello.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just a
19 couple of quick questions. What is the
20 actual deadline that it has to be submitted
21 by?

22 MR. SARCONI: The deadline is, we
23 need to hand it to HUD 45 days prior to,
24 September 1st.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You've had

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 three public hearings already so why would
3 they schedule a hearing after we are
4 adopting it?

5 MR. SARCONE: I don't know.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let me ask
7 you this, who scheduled the hearing?

8 MR. SARCONE: We scheduled our
9 public hearing to announce the awards. It
10 has to go out for 30 days for public
11 comment. That 30 days expires in three days
12 from today. But the legislature in the
13 summer only meets on these certain days, so
14 we need to have our action plan into HUD as
15 soon as possible.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So the
17 public comment period doesn't end until
18 three days from now?

19 MR. SARCONE: Correct.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So they
21 have 27 or so, 26 days?

22 MR. SARCONE: Correct.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So is
24 there any reason why we can't adopt this on
25 August 3rd?

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 MR. SARCONE: It's not 45 days
3 prior to September 1st. They have 45 days
4 to review the plan and either come back with
5 comments or pass it in its entirety.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So, at
7 this point, by not adopting today we
8 potentially run the risk of running afoul of
9 this program and who knows what the
10 ramifications of that would be?

11 MR. SARCONE: Correct.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I would
13 suggest in future years if it's possible to
14 schedule public comment so it ends before
15 the projected legislative date.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: We need to
17 coordinate when we schedule the summer
18 legislature.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's
20 fine.

21 MR. SARCONE: This has been going
22 on for many many years.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have a
24 question, John, the question is, there are a
25 number of members that are part of this

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 consortium, correct?

3 MR. SARCONE: Yes.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: These
5 members do hold hearings; do we receive
6 recommendations from the residents, correct?

7 MR. SARCONE: Sure.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do they
9 relate that to you?

10 MR. SARCONE: Yes. Any comments
11 made at a public hearing for consortium,
12 they must include it in their submission to
13 us.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's
15 another way of us knowing exactly how
16 involved the members of the consortium are.
17 Legislator Walker.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you,
19 Legislator Gonsalves. And it's actually
20 really already been said, but just from my
21 understanding, I know that this last hearing
22 is on Wednesday, correct? The deadline of
23 the comment period is on Wednesday?

24 MR. SARCONE: Yes.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: However, it's

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 not like we haven't had three hearings on it
3 already. It's not like we haven't had a
4 comment period for 27 days already and,
5 obviously, the communities have already had
6 hearings on it, different municipalities,
7 they could also respond. It's not like they
8 certainly haven't had an opportunity and we
9 only have these last two --

10 MR. SARCONI: To put it in
11 perspective, we make our announcement that
12 we are accepting applications input in
13 February.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry, for
15 clarity --

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
17 Bynoe.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I just want to
19 be clear, that this particular hearing
20 that's being held three days from today, is
21 specifically to deal with the funding that
22 will be allocated to each entity. This is
23 when they have an opportunity to either come
24 and complain or make a comment regarded
25 being under funded or not funded at all?

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 MR. SARCONE: That's incorrect.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Then correct
4 me. What's the difference between this
5 particular hearing and the ones that you've
6 had earlier?

7 MR. SARCONE: Because Wednesday
8 is not the cut off. They can make their
9 suggestions, complaints, or anything in
10 between currently right now.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: What is the
12 hearing for on Wednesday?

13 MR. SARCONE: It's not a hearing.
14 It's the end of the public comment.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: What is that
16 purpose? What is the purpose for the
17 deadline on Wednesday?

18 MR. SARCONE: To close out public
19 comment on the action plan.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: On the action
21 plan. But those earlier hearings and those
22 other opportunities that they had to speak,
23 it wasn't about the plan, it wasn't specific
24 to the plan. It was specific about the
25 funding that was available for them to apply

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 for; am I correct?

3 MR. SARCONE: I'm going to give
4 you a quick 30 summation of how this process
5 plays out.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay.

7 MR. SARCONE: In February, we
8 have our first public hearing. We announce
9 the funding for the upcoming year. Starting
10 that date, we accept applications from our
11 consortium, and public services.

12 Once we make the deadline of
13 April 1st of every year, we close the
14 application process. From April 1st on, we
15 make our determinations.

16 Then we announce our funding at
17 our second public hearing. We announce the
18 funding and open up the public comment for
19 30 days. We are in day 27.

20 But this year is a little
21 different because we had our five year
22 consolidated plan. So we had another public
23 hearing for that five year consolidated
24 plan, and we opened that up for comment. So
25 we've had three public hearings on this.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

3 So, the initial opportunities that they had
4 to speak wasn't necessarily around the
5 finalized plan. You keep saying there were
6 three opportunities for them to have
7 discussions, I wanted to be clear that all
8 three of those opportunities weren't the
9 finalized plan. This is specific to the
10 finalized plan.

11 I don't think it appropriate that
12 we allow for the period to end after we vote
13 on it. That's the point I'm making. It's a
14 different opportunity for them to speak to
15 it. The earlier opportunities they had to
16 speak were separate and different from what
17 they were speaking to today. I just wanted
18 to be clear. Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any public
20 comment regarding this issue? Ms. Mereday.

21 MS. MEREDAY: Meta Mereday,
22 Wesley Street, Baldwin. First let's talk
23 about the 6,000 on the waiting list, okay?
24 6,000 on a waiting list. Let's let that
25 resonate, first of all.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 I'm curious as to the dates. I
3 believe I heard that the publication for
4 these public meetings happened in Newsday, I
5 guess that's that 8 point type that's in the
6 classified section that no one really needs
7 and notices to the members of the
8 legislature.

9 I'm curious as to how the public
10 is then officially and effectively notified
11 with regard to this type of scenario. And
12 the breakdown for the specific services
13 themselves with regard to funding for
14 housing for the homeless, the home
15 investment grant and things like that, and
16 how that can possibly play into this whole
17 creation with regard to this land bank and
18 the zombie homes.

19 We keep talking about an
20 affordable housing issue, and we keep
21 talking about a high cost for housing crisis
22 that we have, and a drain in terms of our
23 educated and employable individuals but we
24 are still consistently putting money out,
25 but we are not effectively addressing the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 problems themselves. I'm glad that somebody
3 brought up the point that our veterans
4 continue to be high among those who are
5 underserved. Many of them, unfortunately,
6 are living in terror in their homes that are
7 under the shadow of being foreclosed upon.
8 But they don't want to face the
9 embarrassment of being trained to be self
10 sufficient and have all the fortitude that
11 we salute them for, to have to come forward
12 and say, I'm in jeopardy of losing my home.

13 So, what are we actually doing
14 with this money? I definitely want to
15 commend Legislator Bynoe for asking these
16 types of questions, and maybe just because
17 this is how we have always done it, if we
18 don't look at the fact that 20 veterans are
19 committing suicide every day, and they are
20 the leading cause of domestic violence,
21 sexual assault and homicide in this country,
22 and the army is about to let go 40,000 more
23 of our military, we need to start looking at
24 where we are putting the tax dollars and the
25 burden on the residents of this county.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 The millions of dollars that you
3 are allocating basically makes this
4 municipality, what is considered a federal
5 contractor, and you're basically in that
6 role in violation of numerous laws. And
7 let's not talk about the municipalities.
8 The Town of Hempstead, yes, I'm in the Town
9 of Hempstead. I go to the Town of Hempstead
10 board meetings on a regular basis. I have
11 yet to hear about, read about, or see any
12 notification on a public meeting that has to
13 do with the distribution of funding for
14 this.

15 We pay about \$80,000 in the Town
16 of Hempstead for one Veteran Services
17 counselor. But we spend millions of dollars
18 for advertising, which I believe is an issue
19 that most of have read about in Newsday as
20 it pertains to Nassau County. But we pay
21 close to \$3 million in the Town of Hempstead
22 in Advertising, and \$80,000 for one veteran
23 counselor?

24 We need to do a better job. And
25 if it has to do with housing, which is the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 bedrock of this community, and the bedrock
3 of our nation, that bedrock is in fractured
4 order. We need to do a better job.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
6 public comment?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 There being none, all those in
9 favor of Item 15 signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Any opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 The item passes unanimously.

14 Now, I'm going to ask your
15 indulgence. We need to recess for about
16 five minutes because we have about three or
17 four emergency items that we need to get the
18 necessary information that we need to
19 certainly vote intelligently. Give us five,
20 ten minutes. I know the hour is getting
21 late, but hopefully we will be out in about
22 that time.

23 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
24 Committee recessed at 4:31 p.m. and
25 reconvened at 4:55 p.m.)

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr.

3 Muller, call the emergencies or help us to
4 establish the emergencies.

5 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer,
6 we have three emergency items that come by
7 way of the County Executive. They are Clerk
8 Item 293-15, a resolution to adopt a citizen
9 participation plan as required under the New
10 York State Community Development Block Grant
11 Disaster Recovery Act;

12 294-15, a resolution to implement
13 the Affirmative Action Plan as required
14 under the New York State Community
15 Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery;

16 And 295-15, a resolution adopting
17 the Section 504 policy and grievance
18 procedures under the New York State
19 Community Development Block Grant Disaster
20 Recovery Program.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion,
22 please.

23 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
3 Kopel. All those in favor of establishing
4 the emergencies, signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 Any opposed?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 The emergencies are established.

9 Now, for item 293.

10 CLERK MULLER: The three items,
11 Emergency Resolution 13, Resolution
12 139-B-15, a resolution to adopt the Citizens
13 Participation Plan as required under the New
14 York State Community Development Block Grant
15 Disaster Recovery;

16 Emergency Resolution 14,
17 Resolution 139-C-15, a resolution to
18 implement the Affirmative Action Plan as
19 required under the New York State Community
20 Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery;

21 And Emergency Resolution 15,
22 Resolution 139-D-15, a resolution adopting
23 the Section 504 policies and grievance
24 procedures under the New York State
25 Community Development Block Grant Disaster

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Recovery Program.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion,
4 please.

5 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
8 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
9 Kopel. I think everybody who is supposed to
10 be here is here. Let's go with 293, a
11 resolution to adopt the Citizens
12 Participation Plan. Do you want to speak on
13 all of them at the same time?

14 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: That would
15 be great, if possible.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's
17 yours.

18 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Perfect.
19 Thank you, Presiding Officer. I would like
20 to thank the minority leader as well and the
21 staffs of both the presiding officer staff
22 and minority leader staff for working very
23 quickly on this.

24 These three grant resolution
25 forms cover eight projects by which the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 county is entering into. If those of you
3 may remember, on October 21st, 20th or 21st,
4 of 2014, this body unanimously approved the
5 sub-recipient agreement with the governor's
6 office of storm recovery in Nassau County to
7 cover various projects.

8 We're now at a point, for Sandy
9 impacted areas, where this is going to be
10 covering eight projects. The three items
11 that are before you are requirements of
12 Gosar and requirements of that sub-recipient
13 agreement, whereas, the county had by a
14 local resolution, had to create those three
15 items as mentioned, a 504 policy and
16 grievance procedure, a policy related to
17 public outreach, and also an affirmative
18 action plan.

19 And why we are here today and why
20 we asked quickly for this emergency is
21 because the county is out to bid as we speak
22 for one of the projects, which is the Barnes
23 Avenue in Hempstead force main and pump
24 station construction project. It's probably
25 one of the most critical projects that is

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 going to impact the Baldwin, and,
3 specifically, the village of Hempstead with
4 respect to any downtown revitalization.

5 That project is out to bid, and
6 tomorrow, the county is actually holding the
7 prebid walk through, and also a mandatory
8 prebid public hearing process that will take
9 place here. Obviously everyone is invited.
10 The prebid walk through is taking place at
11 Bay Park, and if you want any specifics
12 related to that we can get it to you, and,
13 again, the conference will be tomorrow where
14 we invite all prospective contractors to
15 come in and meet with people because we are
16 actively engaging in having an MWBE
17 requirement and reaching the goal.

18 So that's why we are here asking,
19 so tomorrow when this meeting takes place we
20 can actually provide all those prospective
21 vendors with this information and the bid
22 opening is actually August 5th, the day
23 after the legislature would have met on
24 August 4th and we did not want to push that
25 bid any further.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 So I would like to thank again
3 the counsel, both the presiding officer and
4 the minority leader, for reading through
5 this very quickly and apologize for that,
6 but, again, the importance of this project,
7 I think we all recognize what this will be
8 for those areas involved.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any
10 questions or comments for Mr. Walker?
11 Legislator Curran.

12 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Quick
13 question about the affirmative action plan.
14 Who is going to be running that?

15 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: That will
16 be run by Minority Affairs. In this case,
17 we have put the requirement, we have a name
18 and affirmative action officer as Reverend
19 Elliot. He will be the point person, but it
20 will also assisted by the Office of Minority
21 Affairs, the Department of Public Works, and
22 I should say too that we are awaiting, and
23 we had conversations with many people, the
24 County Executive had in this room, that we
25 are awaiting upon the recommendation of the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Minority Affairs council, the three person
3 recommendation so the County Executive can
4 appoint a new executive director as well to
5 that office.

6 But it will be run in conjunction
7 with them as well as the County Executive
8 will be forwarding to this legislature in
9 very short order a recommendation on his
10 behalf, which has been mentioned in some of
11 the news writings, a company, a firm that is
12 going to be hired to deal directly with the
13 department on each and every project that
14 the county enters into to gain additional
15 minority MWBE representation.

16 Also, if terms of employment
17 opportunities and outreach and things of
18 that nature, hopefully will be in the next
19 30 to 45 days, you will get that award as
20 well. They'll be working in conjunction
21 with all of those and our project managers.
22 You will hear from Mike Denicola possibly
23 later if you have any technical questions on
24 one of our biggest contracts with Bay Park.
25 But he can detail a lot of the work that has

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 begun in that process.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
4 DeRiggi-Whitton.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Rob,
6 when would you expect that appointment to
7 be?

8 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Actually
9 are awaiting for the recommendation from the
10 counsel, so we have not received that yet.
11 The County Executive had met with the
12 chairperson of the council I believe it was
13 two weeks ago now. I only know because I
14 attended the meeting with him.

15 So we are just awaiting that
16 recommendation from them of three
17 individuals and the county Executive will
18 then select. So we are just awaiting that.
19 I can't tell when they are going to give it
20 to us; could be today, could be tomorrow, I
21 don't know.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
23 you think it's going to be imminent though?

24 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: We hope so.
25 We said, as soon as they make a

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 recommendation, we will be moving forward.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Will
4 any major decisions be made prior to this
5 appointment?

6 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: No, not at
7 all. I say "no" in terms of the progress
8 moving forward with this job, this work, we
9 are going to move forward. It needs to be
10 done as expeditiously as possible. Such a
11 critical project. The other seven projects
12 on this list have not even gone out to bid
13 yet. So, this is the only item that has
14 gone out to bid, the Hempstead force main
15 and pump station.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So,
17 I guess we just want to have it on record
18 that we hope and anticipate an appointment
19 for that position prior to any of these
20 decisions.

21 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Yes.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
25 comment from any other legislator?

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Legislator Curran.

3 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Because I
4 represent most of Baldwin, I want to say
5 that I'm delighted about the Barnes Avenue
6 project. I know that this is something that
7 I've been talking with about DPW about for a
8 long time, and I can't wait for this project
9 to be done because it will relieve a lot of
10 people.

11 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any public
13 comment? Ms. Mereday.

14 MS. MEREDAY: Good afternoon.
15 Meta Mereday, Wesley Street, Baldwin.

16 I'm just a little concerned with
17 regard to the fact that a bid is going out
18 tomorrow, and this body is just now deciding
19 on an affirmative action plan at 5:00 p.m.
20 in the afternoon. One, how is the outreach
21 done, and with regard to the affirmative
22 action, since we are clearly using federal
23 as well as state funding, I didn't really
24 hear anything with regard to outreach and
25 inclusion of veteran as contractors and

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 employees.

3 So, could that issue be addressed
4 and how would that be implemented? Since
5 the last time I was before this body, there
6 were some concerns with regard to various
7 compliance issues within the minority and
8 women business office, and I'm still not
9 sure as to what is the full regard to
10 veteran contracting and outreach in Nassau
11 County. So, if someone could speak to that,
12 it would be appreciated.

13 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Just with
14 respect to outreach, this is a public bid
15 process. The public bid process remains, so
16 the item will appear, it does as we speak
17 today. It appears on the Nassau County bid
18 site and it also appears on the Minority
19 Affairs website. I think it's important you
20 said that. We can add that to the veterans
21 website. I think that will be crucial.

22 In terms of outreach, that's what
23 the meeting is about tomorrow. The meeting
24 is -- every one is invited from all
25 community groups. There is extensive

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 outreach done in terms of going into,
3 actually, laundromats, going store to store
4 to hand out information related to this
5 meeting.

6 The last time we did this with
7 the electrical distribution phase III, which
8 is, again, on for the Rules Committee later.
9 We actually had over 100 people actually
10 participated, both vendors and also our
11 residents, and will continue to do with
12 respect to this contract.

13 The goal of 30 percent is a goal
14 that we are going to be actively actively
15 actively trying to hit the mark. And once
16 we get into the utilization, it's even more
17 incumbent upon us to go after a lot of those
18 people. Understanding that each job is very
19 unique and you don't want to put a person on
20 the job site, especially, again, you're
21 talking about electrical distribution. I
22 would not go on that job site because I
23 would be electrocuted in about two minutes
24 if I make it that long.

25 So we want to make sure we have

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 the right people handling that. And the
3 firms understand it. The firms have to make
4 those commitments and, again, I think we've
5 made great strides, and I don't want to get
6 into the other contracts, because I think
7 they can speak to that better than I can.
8 We look forward to working with every one on
9 that.

10 MS. MEREDAY: Thank you,
11 Mr. Walker, for that update. I'm still, for
12 the record, as it pertains to active
13 participation and outreach, I might want to
14 share with all those that they might want to
15 consider looking at the Dodd-Frank at
16 Section 342, which specifically outlines
17 very detailed and comprehensive guideposts
18 with regard to outreach for diverse
19 workforce as well as supplier diversity. We
20 continue to move rapidly.

21 We are beyond the slippery slope,
22 but we are moving very rapidly into some
23 serious litigation with regard to a lack of
24 inclusion, particularly as it pertains to
25 service disabled veteran owned business.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Where our own New York State has a problem
3 in terms of the number of certified
4 services-abled veterans to do the various
5 projects. And, too often, we are
6 contracting out of state because we are not
7 recruiting and developing the small minority
8 and/or veteran-owned businesses in our own
9 areas.

10 So, again, we need to look at
11 opportunities to provide, to help, to grow,
12 to mentor a number of these businesses that
13 are small, minority women, veteran owned,
14 and also create more job opportunities for
15 those who live here on Long Island, or
16 struggling to live here on Long Island.

17 And I hope we can look at not
18 just putting together an emergency
19 affirmative action plan, but something that
20 we can have long term that is sustainable
21 for the long road. I would appreciate
22 having that consideration.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
24 Ms. Mereday. Legislator Ford.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Just two quick

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 things just as a follow up. In regard to
3 the meeting that you are having tomorrow. I
4 know you do an outreach so that anybody who
5 may want to bid on these jobs participate.
6 After tomorrow, say there is a vendor, or
7 somebody who would be interested in this and
8 they say to somebody else that they went to
9 this meeting and they have these projects
10 coming down, it's not closed out, tomorrow,
11 anybody after tomorrow can still so that if
12 there is a way -- like, if I tell my
13 veterans agency in the City of Long Beach
14 that this is happening, they then can
15 inquire that they know a veteran owned
16 business that may want to bid on this. Is
17 it still possible for them to do it?

18 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Yes, so the
19 bid doesn't close actually until August 5.
20 One of the other things too is after the bid
21 is awarded, there is a lot of work that then
22 goes into reaching all the utilization
23 requirements.

24 So, at that point we are going to
25 still work with the contractor and with the

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 staff of both Minority Affairs, DPW, and the
3 company I mentioned before, who is going to
4 be brought on that is really specialized in
5 this field. We are now actively going to go
6 into the community. There is a target by
7 the number of new jobs created that we are
8 going to go into the community and try to
9 reach those goals. I think we can.

10 I can let Brian Schneider or Mike
11 Denicola that are and can talk about it, not
12 that I want everyone to stick around and
13 listen to Rules, but talking about the work
14 that has gone into that contract which is
15 the first time that the county has really
16 dug into a contract, this is what you have
17 to do, there is no ifs, ands or buts about
18 it. You have to go out and actually find to
19 meet the requirement of job growth.

20 So we will do that and continue
21 to do that during that process. It could be
22 one person that we find that lives in Long
23 Beach or East Rockaway that meets these
24 requirements and we're going to have to
25 attempt to do that.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 LEGISLATOR FORD: So, when you go
3 out to the small businesses, or you're going
4 out for this outreach, do you do it by flyer
5 or information sheet or something?

6 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Yes.
7 They've been handing out posters, flyers,
8 information, and will continue to do.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Can I get a
10 copy of that flyer and I can download it and
11 I can E-team it out. I can even give it to
12 some of my veteran agencies.

13 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: We will
14 send it to all the legislators and then
15 you'll have it. This is a critical goal
16 that the state has set. Like I said, we
17 have been doing more due diligence than
18 probably has been done before, which is more
19 good than bad. It's a new environment for
20 everyone.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: My last thing
22 would be then, considering that the scope of
23 these projects, and a lot of them are county
24 owned properties, will this work all under
25 the apprenticeship language that we passed?

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Yes.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: So that will
4 cut down on the number of out of state
5 people that possibly bid on these?

6 CHIEF DEPUTY WALKER: Some
7 probably will have a PLA. Again, the good
8 thing about it is goal setting, job
9 creation, it has to be local. So there is
10 those requirements. We are going to make
11 every effort to reach it, if not exceed what
12 we need to do.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: There
14 being no other comments, all those in favor
15 signify by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 The items pass unanimously.

20 I believe that's the end of it.

21 I'm going to ask for a motion to adjourn.

22 There are a few people here who have been
23 waiting to voice their comments. We're
24 going to do that before we do the Rules
25 Committee. So everybody will have to sit

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 tight until we do the Rules Committee.

3 A motion to adjourn.

4 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

7 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator

8 Nicolello. All those in favor signify by

9 saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Any opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 The meeting is adjourned but not

14 public participation.

15 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative

16 Committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Sandra

18 D'Arcangelo.

19 MS. D'ARCANGELO: Good evening.

20 I'm with the Northside Civic. It's been

21 excellent news for Nassau County that New

22 York City has backed up from its threat to

23 open its Queens wells. But that doesn't end

24 our worries about our water.

25 The Water Sources Board newly

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 enacted charter requires it examine aquifer
3 management practices, both from beyond and
4 within the county's borders. The board must
5 reconvene and expedite the recommendations
6 its charter now mandates.

7 It's imperative that these
8 recommendations include the following:

9 The county must proactively
10 manage and vigilantly protect its drinking
11 water supply, continuing to monitor the
12 Queens threat expediting the proposed
13 western Long Island US Geological Survey
14 Study, fending off pressures to have aquifer
15 pumped water transported beyond the county
16 water district border.

17 The county must protect the
18 aquifer system as a limited and vulnerable
19 resource. This includes impelling best
20 practices, proper planning and prudent
21 conservation methods, in particular, the
22 relevant methods disclosed in the EPA Water
23 Savers Water Sense Program.

24 Developing and implementing a
25 comprehensive groundwater management plan,

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 anticipating, assessing and mitigating the
3 short and long term effects of human
4 activity, demographics, climate change, and
5 quantity related issues, such as demand,
6 pumping, and usage, drawdown contamination,
7 drought conditions, sea level rise, salt
8 water intrusion, ground water levels
9 pertaining to inland surface waters.

10 The county must implement
11 policies to hold over pumping of the aquifer
12 system, a big problem. This includes
13 adopting the managed yield approach,
14 monitoring water withdrawals within and
15 throughout the county, insisting the
16 county's current safe yield limit of 185
17 million gallons a day is strictly enforced,
18 establishing and routinely updated a county
19 wide water budget and related district water
20 budgets as well, requiring all water budgets
21 and related safe, sustainable, and managed
22 yield limits are strictly enforced and I'm
23 sure the legislature appreciates the full
24 significance of protecting our drinking
25 water, groundwater.

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 Having the Water Resources Board
3 reconvene and recommend the county expedite
4 the aforementioned requisites, will
5 certainly serve to stave off all future
6 crises.

7 I, myself, or others would be
8 pleased to meet with those serving on the
9 legislative committees, planning,
10 development, and environmental committees to
11 pursue these recommendations. Thank you for
12 your time.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
14 for being so patient. Gerald Ottavino.

15 MR. OTTAVINO: Gerald Ottavino
16 from Point Lookout. I'm in complete
17 agreement with the Water Resources Board
18 suggestions just proposed by Sandra. And I
19 wish to compliment them by proposing to the
20 board considerate additional recommendations
21 as follows:

22 The county must implement
23 policies to reduce and remediate
24 contamination. This includes anticipating
25 assessing and mitigating the short and long

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 term effects of human activity on
3 groundwater quality. A particular pollution
4 trend attributable to nitrogen, pesticides
5 and other toxins, pathogens,
6 pharmaceuticals, volatile or damaging
7 compounds, household and personal care
8 products, nucleoids and other carcinogens
9 and promoting comprehensive cleanup and
10 restoration of super fund and other
11 contaminated sites including toxic plumes.
12 The county must also issue regular reports
13 of the status of its drinking water
14 resources. This includes expediting
15 publication of the Water Resources Board
16 report to the County Executive that was due
17 February 1st that hasn't been published to
18 date.

19 Re-continuing the Department of
20 Health's annual publication of Nassau
21 County's groundwater and public supply facts
22 and maintaining and making available all its
23 respective associated and related databases.
24 The county must work and interface with
25 professional and scientific groups, disclose

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 their findings and implement their
3 recommendations. This includes adopting the
4 recommendations of independent,
5 professional, and scientific studies,
6 promoting coordination, cooperation, sense
7 of comradery with water companies,
8 suppliers, utilities and districts, United
9 States Geological Survey, environment
10 organizations and others, endeavoring to
11 remediate existing groundwater problems and
12 prevent future drinking water crises.

13 It includes crafting short and
14 long term conservation measures and policies
15 to reduce portable waste and, finally,
16 educating the public about aquifer and
17 potable water conservation essentials.

18 As Sandra stated previously, I'm
19 sure the legislature appreciates the fill
20 significance of protecting our drinking
21 water and having the Water Resources Board
22 reconvene and recommend the county expedite
23 the aforementioned requisites will certainly
24 serve to stave off future crises.

25 I and others would be pleased to

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 meet with those serving on the leg, in
3 particular, the Planning, Development and
4 Environmental Committee, to pursue these
5 recommendations in greater detail.

6 Thank you for your time and
7 efforts.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
9 Mr. Ottavino. Thank you for your patience.
10 Joanne Borden.

11 MS. BORDEN: Good evening. I'm
12 here again to request that you define gender
13 in our Human Rights Law. I will not repeat
14 all the evidence that medical science says
15 transgenderism is a birth variation akin to
16 people with red hair or left handedness.

17 I will not repeat the hard
18 evidence that our Nassau law does not
19 explicitly protect transgender people.

20 I will not repeat that we do not
21 have the same protection that transgender
22 people have in all the counties and states
23 that surround us.

24 I will not repeat that over 50
25 percent, roughly 160 million people, live in

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 the United States with transgender rights
3 laws and nothing bad has ever been reported.

4 Your inaction to outlaw harm to
5 us may seem to render you innocent, but you
6 are not an innocent bystander. By allowing
7 harm, the threat of harm, or even the fear
8 of harm, you are perpetuating un-Godly hate.
9 Your inaction is an action. It's as though
10 you leave a loaded gun accessible to a
11 murderer. It's the same as driving at high
12 speeds towards your designation without
13 regards to prevent bad consequences. Your
14 inaction is in fact an action and inhumane
15 and sinful action.

16 You may not want to think of it
17 as such. You may rationalize that the harm
18 and fear we experience is not your fault.
19 You may feel there's safety in numbers. But
20 you know your inaction is participation in
21 hate, yours or that of others. It's your
22 personal responsibility. It is you,
23 individually, who are allowing harm to
24 people; harm you can discourage and even
25 prevent. Thus, you are guilty. Guilty of

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 perpetrating harm on people. Your
3 constituents, guilty of a sin, guilty of a
4 sin against God and the decalogue he
5 commands you to obey.

6 It's not too late. Roll away the
7 guilt of inaction. I say to each of you,
8 shake the anti-human guilt from yourselves
9 and demand the honest and right thing. As
10 Reagan said, fulfill the prime duty and
11 responsibility of your office to protect
12 people not run their lives.

13 Include a definition of gender in
14 our law by demanding passage of the gender
15 classification law. Thank you for
16 listening.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding
18 Officer?

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
20 Solages.

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Joanne, I
22 just want to thank you again for being here
23 today. Please, your comments are not
24 falling upon deaf ears. I really care about
25 the issue that you're advancing. This is

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 about basic justice and basic equality for
3 all.

4 You have shown and just paying
5 attention to the news has shown by
6 protecting all persons, the floor won't
7 fallout. We won't have decay or destruction
8 of our society and our morals.

9 So I thank you for continuing
10 this fight and, again, if there is other
11 opportunities to join and to help you
12 advance this cause, please let me know.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. BORDEN: A couple of months
15 ago we heard a transgender woman tell about
16 her 20 years of experience on the job, being
17 commended and promoted and then someone
18 saw her as an activist on television for
19 transgenderism, and she was finally fired
20 after 20 years of good service, not just
21 ordinary service. You don't react. You
22 don't even have any comments. All you say
23 is, there's no dispute, no question. We are
24 already covered. There's no question.
25 We're already covered. No one questions

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 except the county attorney and every
3 organization that has attorneys and studies
4 this law says that we do not have coverage
5 in this law and you sit there and say there
6 is no dispute. The silence is deafening.

7 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Joanne, but
8 take solace in something. It's me, Judy.
9 Your strength, your dedication, and your
10 commitment to seeing this through, some day,
11 and I believe it will happen, managed to get
12 it through.

13 It started with you here, because
14 the supervisor of the Town of North
15 Hempstead began her political career here.
16 It was on her mind from the minute she left
17 here how ridiculous this was, that you had
18 to be here every two weeks, or chose to be
19 here every two weeks to try to convince us.

20 You know, you always should point
21 whenever you get up to speak somewhere that
22 North Hempstead is still standing, and they
23 took great pride in the fact that in a
24 unanimous bipartisan way, they did pass this
25 law, this gender -- not even a law, they

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 passed this gender amendment to the original
3 law to make it fall into place that
4 everybody is protected. Don't ever forget
5 that that's a plus. That's a victory to
6 your perseverance.

7 I'm not just saying it to make
8 you feel good because I know you are very
9 frustrated and I don't blame you. But it is
10 something to point to and there is no
11 question in my mind that you will see a
12 repetition of that, if not here right away,
13 you're going to see it elsewhere or
14 throughout the county. That's what will get
15 it to happen.

16 It's sad. I mean, it's in
17 Suffolk, it's in the City, it's in
18 Westchester, but, unfortunately, what is is,
19 but don't ever underestimate what you have
20 already accomplished. Okay?

21 MS. BORDEN: It's interesting
22 that the silence is deafening when I speak
23 as far as the Republican side is concerned.

24 I spoke to the Long Beach City
25 Council. When I finished, they said thank

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 you for calling that omission to our
3 attention. The city attorney will have it,
4 pass it on to the city attorney. I don't
5 understand. I don't understand that people
6 don't realize what they're doing by not
7 doing something, something very simple.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Debbie
9 Wilson.

10 MS. WILSON: Hi. Debbie Wilson,
11 I live in the Incorporated Village of
12 Freeport. I was out to lunch on Valentine's
13 Day taking my 86 old mother for lunch. My
14 home was burglarized. I came home. Two
15 doors had been broken into. They beat my
16 dog with a 2 by 4 and a handle to one of my
17 garden tools. They found my safe and stole
18 an enormous amount of property.

19 The dog had to be euthanized. I
20 never recovered any of my property. Now I
21 have been notified that if I want to put an
22 alarm system in my home, I not only have to
23 pay a fee for the mere privilege of trying
24 to protect my home and my property to the
25 Incorporated Village of Freeport, but I have

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 to pay a fee for the mere privilege of
3 installing an alarm system to Nassau County.

4 The Nassau County Police
5 Department does not respond to our burglary
6 calls. The Freeport Police Department
7 responds to all of our burglary calls.

8 I don't understand how you can
9 charge somebody like me a fee and not
10 provide a service for it. Could somebody up
11 there please explain to me how you can
12 charge me a fee and not provide a service
13 for it?

14 You don't respond to our burglary
15 calls. The Freeport Police Department does
16 and we already pay a fee to them to the
17 Village of Freeport. Anybody?

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Debbie,
19 the detective division of Nassau County that
20 does respond to those calls --

21 MS. WILSON: You do not answer
22 the burglary alarms. We already pay for
23 services rendered to the county for any kind
24 of detective services or what have you
25 through our county taxes. We pay for those

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15

2 services. This is a separate fee for the
3 mere privilege of having an alarm system in
4 your home.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let me say
6 this to you: We will look into it and, if
7 that's the case, then we will rectify it.
8 We will take your concern to Nassau County
9 Police Department and verify the fact you're
10 being charged.

11 MS. WILSON: There are
12 approximately, if I'm correct, 69
13 incorporated villages in Nassau County.
14 Most of which have their own police
15 departments.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Most of
17 them don't.

18 MS. WILSON: I know that Lynbrook
19 does. Rockville Centre does. Freeport we
20 have our own. Hempstead has their own.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: None on
22 the north shore.

23 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Some have it
24 on the north shore, but not all.

25 MS. WILSON: There are a lot of

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 communities that have their own police
3 departments that are being charged a fee for
4 their burglar alarms and then they are being
5 charged again.

6 The Nassau County Police do not
7 respond to any burglary calls in the village
8 of Freeport. They do not answer the burglar
9 alarms. That's what the fee is for.

10 We already pay for other services
11 rendered to the county police department
12 through our property taxes, through our
13 county tax.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Debbie, I
15 said we will look into it and we will get
16 back to you.

17 MS. WILSON: Who will get back to
18 me because I see that my representatives
19 from my village are not even here, Freeport.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Kevan is
21 not here. He had an emergency.

22 MS. WILSON: Laura is not here.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have
24 your information. Michelle Darcy will get
25 it to Mr. Abrahams. And Steve Rhoads is

1 Full Legislature/7-13-15
2 also here. It's not falling on deaf ears.
3 We have the information and they'll get back
4 to you.

5 MS. WILSON: Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That ends
7 public participation. Those who did wait,
8 thank you for your participation.

9 (TIME NOTED: 5:35 p.m.)

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of New
York, do hereby stated:

THAT I attended at the time and place
above mentioned and took stenographic record
of the proceedings in the above-entitled
matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true
and accurate transcript of the same and the
whole thereof, according to the best of my
ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 29th day of July, 2015.

FRANK GRAY